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NO 23
JULY

Romantic Adventures

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

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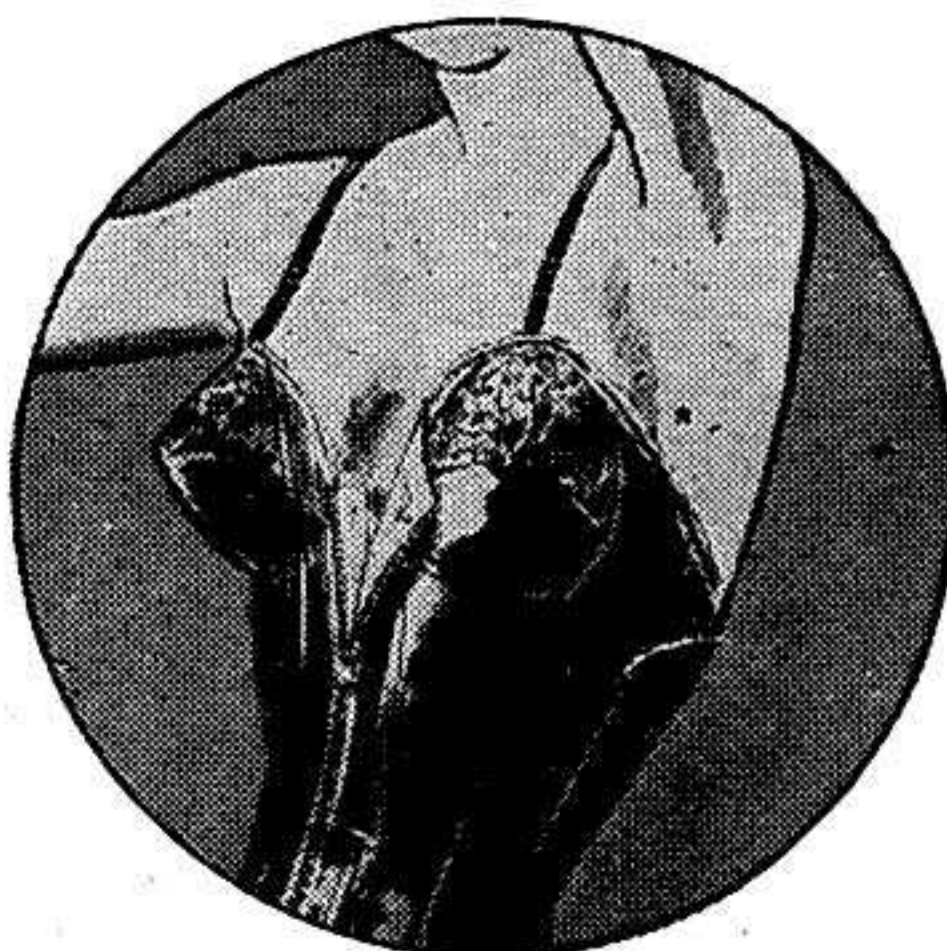
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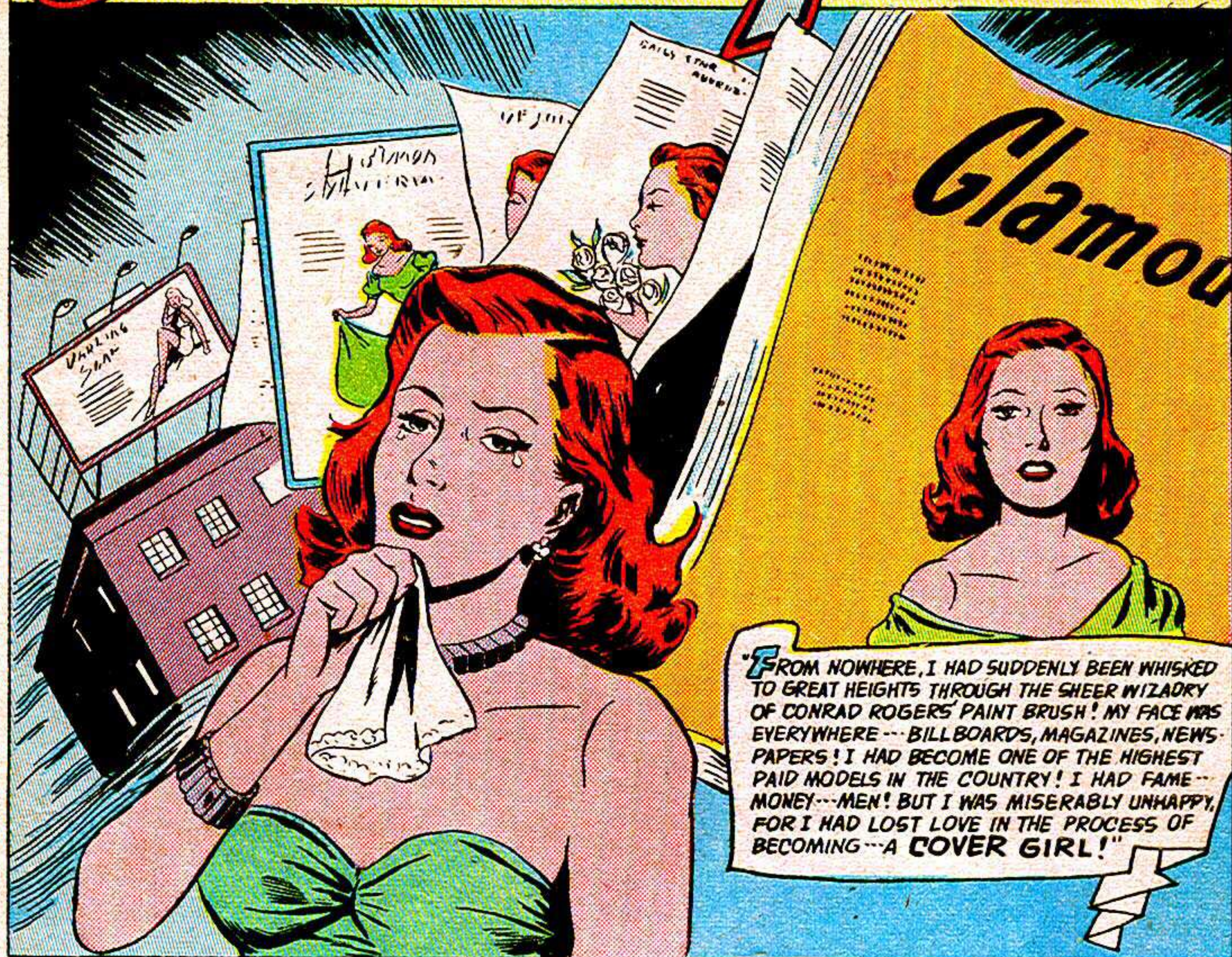
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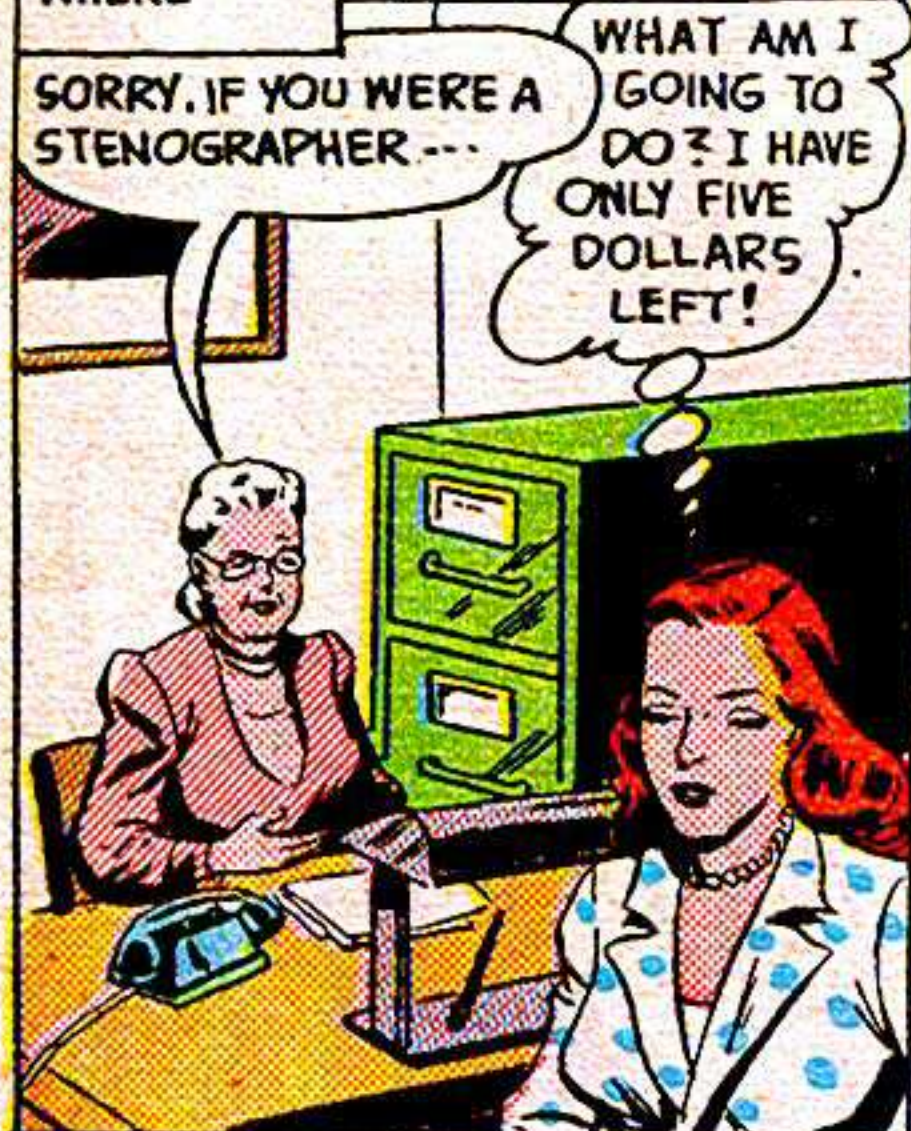
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Cover Girl



"FROM NOWHERE, I HAD SUDDENLY BEEN WHISKED TO GREAT HEIGHTS THROUGH THE SHEER WIZARDRY OF CONRAD ROGERS' PAINT BRUSH! MY FACE WAS EVERYWHERE...BILLBOARDS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS! I HAD BECOME ONE OF THE HIGHEST PAID MODELS IN THE COUNTRY! I HAD FAME--MONEY--MEN! BUT I WAS MISERABLY UNHAPPY, FOR I HAD LOST LOVE IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING...A COVER GIRL!"

"A LONELY ORPHAN, I HAD COME TO NEW YORK TO GET A JOB--ANY JOB! BUT I HAD NO EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING AND I COULDN'T CATCH ON ANYWHERE..."



SORRY, IF YOU WERE A STENOGRAPHER...

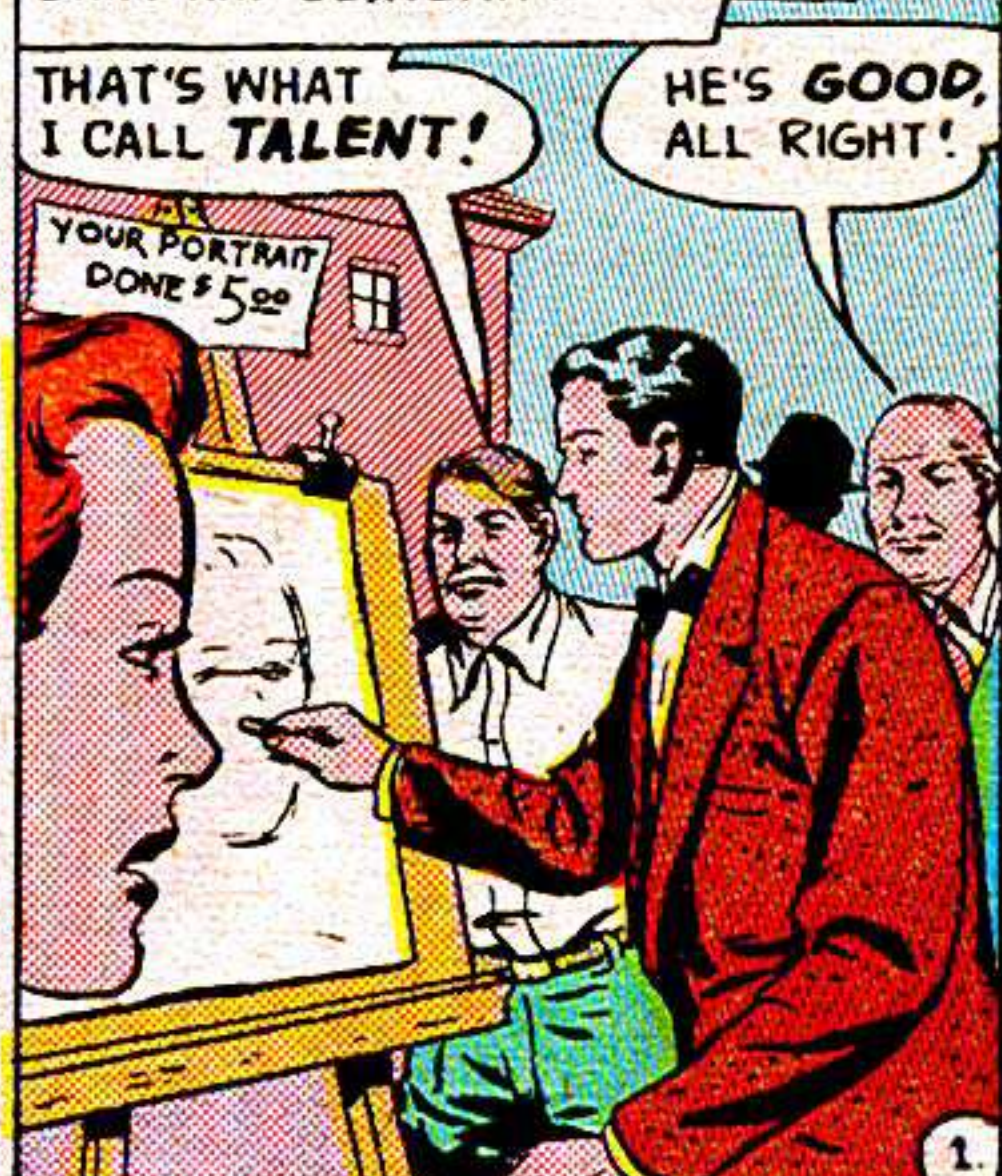
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I HAVE ONLY FIVE DOLLARS LEFT!

"FIVE DOLLARS! AND THE RENT ON MY MISERABLE FURNISHED ROOM WAS DUE! I WALKED WEARILY DOWNTOWN AND STARTED TO CROSS WASHINGTON SQUARE..."



THAT CROWD...IT MUST BE THE OUT-DOOR ART SHOW!

"I STOPPED TO WATCH A YOUNG ARTIST DO A SKETCH--AND WAS IMMEDIATELY FASCINATED BY HIS SKILL AND DEXTERITY..."



THAT'S WHAT I CALL TALENT!

HE'S GOOD, ALL RIGHT!

"THE FINISHED PORTRAIT WAS MAGNIFICENT! AS I LEANED CLOSER TO LOOK AT IT, I NOTICED HIS PENETRATING EYES SWEEP OVER ME--"



"I WAS STARTLED... ME POSE? IMPOSSIBLE! I COULDN'T AFFORD TO PAY OUT MY LAST FIVE DOLLARS!"



"THERE WAS SOMETHING COMPELLING IN HIS RESONANT VOICE... OR PERHAPS IT WAS THE INTENSE PLAY OF HIS RUGGED FEATURES! AMAZED AT MY OWN MEEKNESS, I FOUND MYSELF OBEYING HIM!"



"AFTERWARDS, I FLUSHED WITH PLEASURE... HE HAD NOT ONLY PORTRAYED MY LIKENESS, HE HAD CAUGHT A QUALITY I NEVER KNEW I POSSESSED... REMARKABLE BEAUTY! AS I OPENED MY PURSE--"



"MASTERFULLY, HE LINKED OUR ARMS AND LED ME AWAY FROM THE CROWD! THEN--"



AH, CONRAD, YOU ARE LUCKY TODAY! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!

LOOK AT HER, GYPSY! SHE'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR-- ISN'T SHE MAGNIFICENT?



"I WAS FLATTERED, BUT SLIGHTLY ANGRY WITH THE WAY I WAS BEING LED AROUND! SO--"



"I SUPPOSE MY REACTION MUST HAVE SHOWED IN MY FACE, FOR GYPSY MARIE LAUGHED, AND--"

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **CONRAD ROGERS**, MY DEAR! HE'S A COMMERCIAL ARTIST--AN ILLUSTRATOR--AND A PERFECT GENTLEMAN!

DON'T GET ME WRONG, MISS---I HAVE AN ORDER FOR A MAGAZINE COVER--AND YOU'RE JUST RIGHT! PLEASE TRY IT--- IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WORK, YOU CAN QUIT ANYTIME! I'LL PAY VERY WELL!



"A PAYING JOB---SOMETHING I COULDN'T AFFORD TO TURN DOWN! AND ALREADY, DEEP WITHIN ME, I FELT A STRANGE MAGNETISM PULLING ME TOWARDS THIS SEMI-STRANGER---LEAVING ME NO CHOICE! LATER, AT HIS STUDIO--"

SOON AS YOU GET TIRED, YELL-- AND WE'LL TAKE A BREAKER! GREAT SCOTT, MISS, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK THIS IS FOR ME!

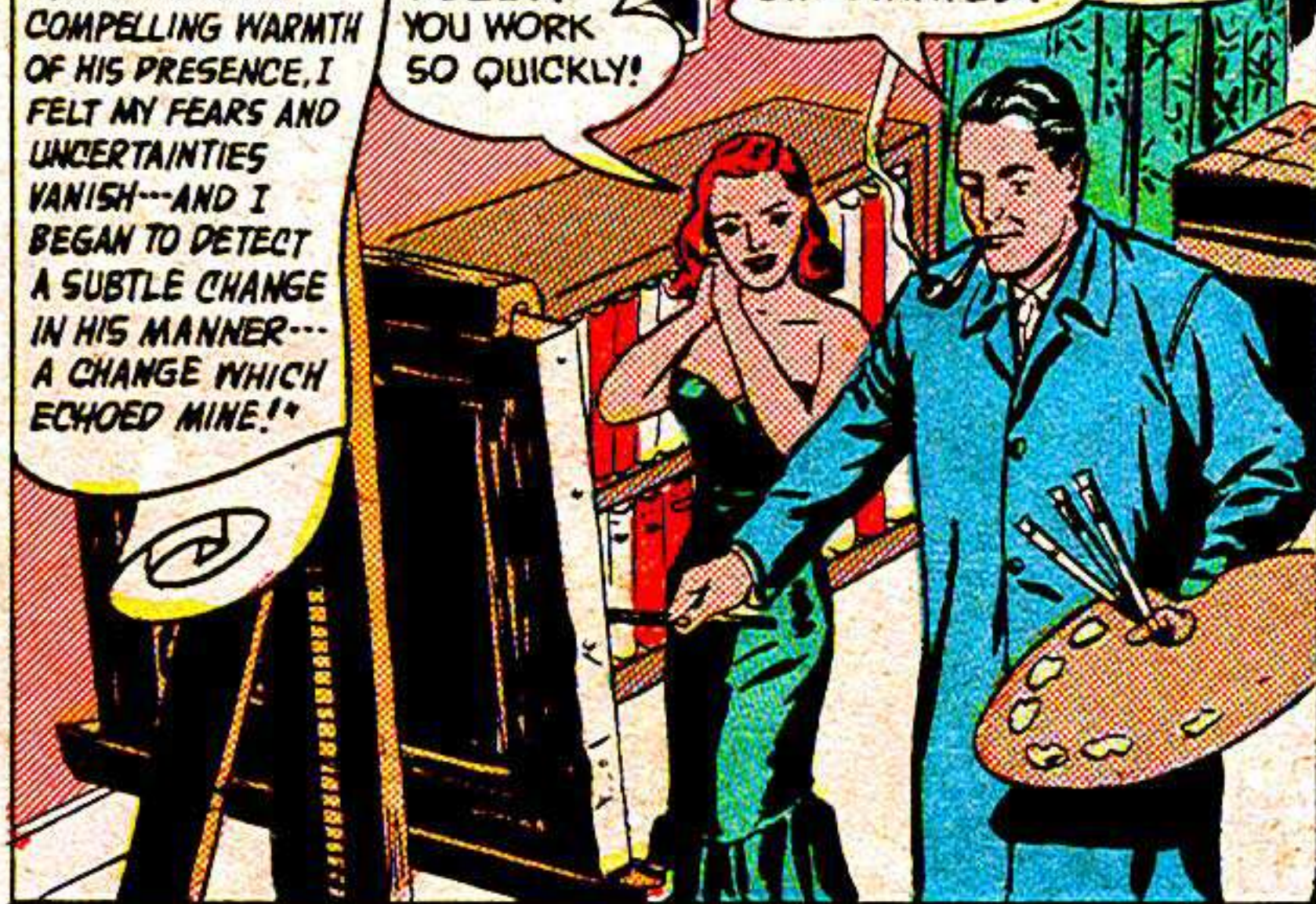
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A BREAK THIS IS FOR ME!



"THE DAYS PASSED SWIFTLY---ALMOST TOO SWIFTLY, I FELT! SOON, UNDER THE COMPELLING WARMTH OF HIS PRESENCE, I FELT MY FEARS AND UNCERTAINTIES VANISH--AND I BEGAN TO DETECT A SUBTLE CHANGE IN HIS MANNER--A CHANGE WHICH ECHOED MINE!"

OH, IT'S COMING ALONG WONDERFULLY! YOU WORK SO QUICKLY!

JUST A MATTER OF PRACTICE, GWEN! I'M LUCKY---MY LEFT HAND IS ALMOST AS GOOD AS MY RIGHT! WELL, LET'S HAVE SOME LUNCH--- I'M STARVED!



"WHEN THE COVER WAS FINISHED WE WERE BOTH WILDLY ELATED! THEN AS I WAITED FOR HIM TO RETURN FROM THE MAGAZINE WITH THE VERDICT--"

THEY LIKE IT! I JUST KNOW THEY DID!

THEY WERE CRAZY ABOUT IT---NEVER HEARD THEM CARRY ON SO!---WE'VE CLICKED, GWEN, REALLY CLICKED!



"UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS EXCITEMENT, HE IMPULSIVELY LIFTED ME OFF THE FLOOR LIKE A FEATHER! A WILD TREMOR OF OVERPOWERING HAPPINESS SHIVERED THROUGH ME--"

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!



"AND WHAT A CELEBRATION IT WAS! WE LAUGHED, SANG AND DANCED IN HALF THE CLUBS IN GREENWICH VILLAGE---ENDING UP FINALLY AT A BARN DANCE!"

SWING YOUR LADY OFF THE FLOOR--- SHE'S THE ONE YOU DO ADORE!

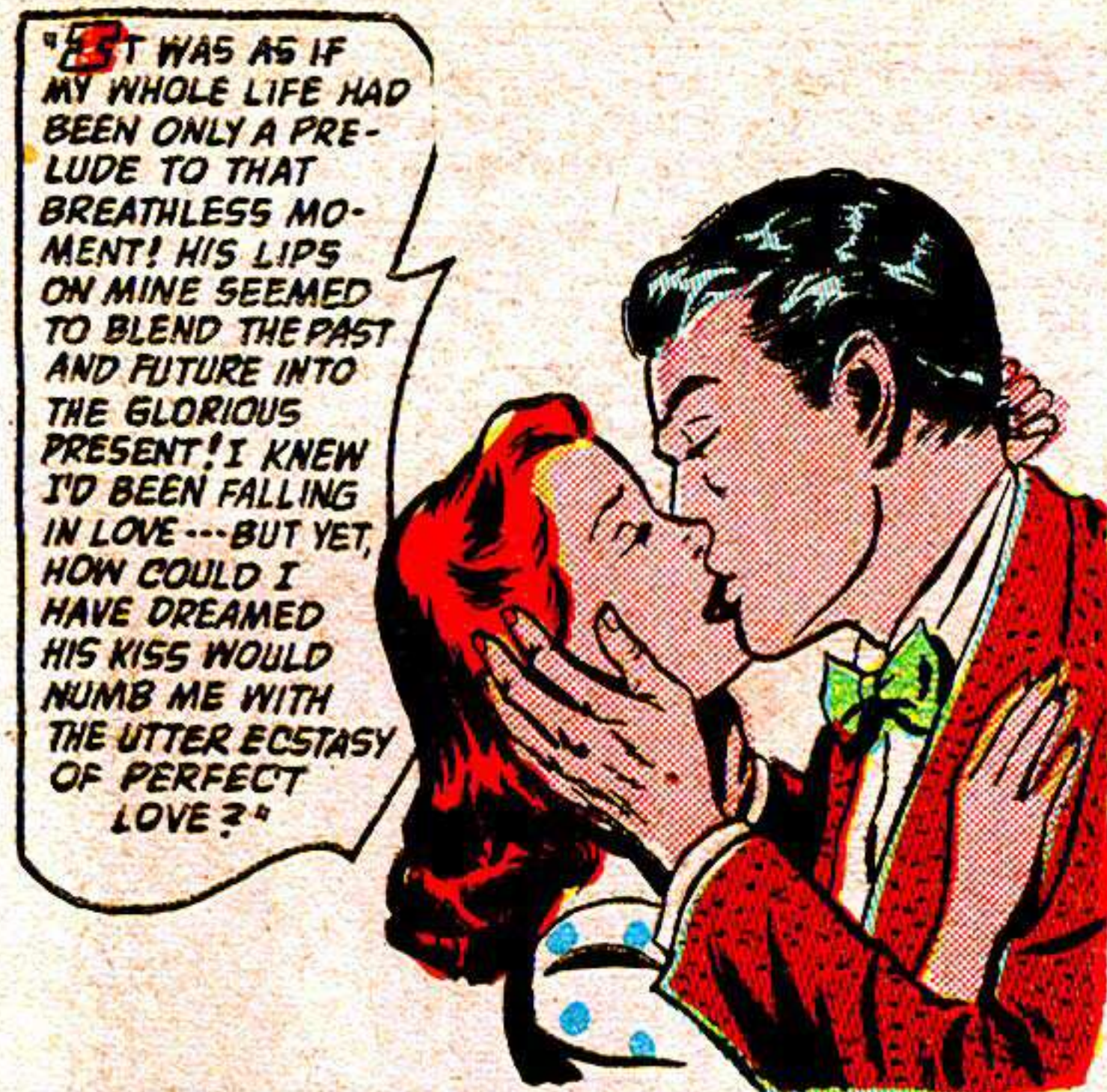


"WHEN---IN THE BREATHLESS HOURS OF THE EARLY MORN, CONRAD TOOK ME HOME! AS WE PASSED THROUGH THE DESERTED PATHS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE, HE STOPPED SUDDENLY AND TURNED---HIS EYES HOLDING ME FAST--"

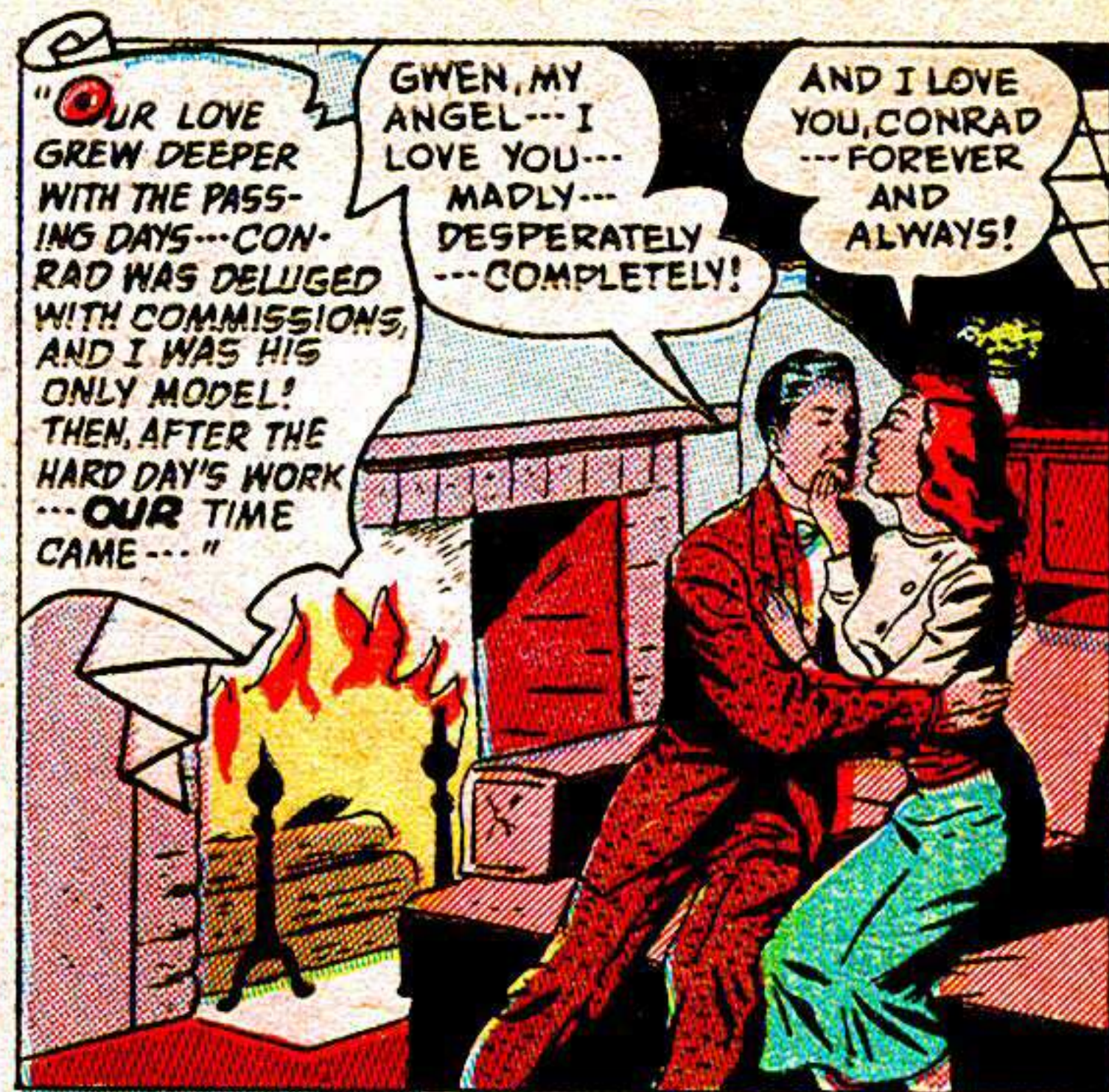
GWEN, MY DARLING--

Y-YES, CONRAD!





"IT WAS AS IF MY WHOLE LIFE HAD BEEN ONLY A PRELUDE TO THAT BREATHLESS MOMENT! HIS LIPS ON MINE SEEMED TO BLEND THE PAST AND FUTURE INTO THE GLORIOUS PRESENT! I KNEW I'D BEEN FALLING IN LOVE---BUT YET, HOW COULD I HAVE DREAMED HIS KISS WOULD NUMB ME WITH THE UTTER ECSTASY OF PERFECT LOVE?"



"OUR LOVE GREW DEEPER WITH THE PASSING DAYS---CONRAD WAS DELUGED WITH COMMISSIONS, AND I WAS HIS ONLY MODEL! THEN, AFTER THE HARD DAY'S WORK---OUR TIME CAME---"

GWEN, MY ANGEL--- I LOVE YOU--- MADLY--- DESPERATELY--- COMPLETELY!

AND I LOVE YOU, CONRAD--- FOREVER AND ALWAYS!



"WHEN THE MAGAZINE CAME OUT WITH MY PICTURE ON THE COVER, IT PROVED A SENSATION!---THE PHONE RANG INCESSANTLY---"

ANOTHER BIG JOB! AND THEY ALWAYS WANT YOU, HONEY---IT'S YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE THAT'S DOING IT!

OH, YOU KNOW IT'S ONLY THE WAY YOU PAINT ME, DARLING!



"BUT SOON I BEGAN RECEIVING OFFERS FROM MODEL AGENCIES---OFFERS WITH HUGE FEES! EVERYTHING WAS HAPPENING TOO QUICKLY AND I WAS DAZED---"

I ONLY WANT TO KEEP POSING FOR YOU, CONRAD---NOTHING ELSE!

DON'T BE GILLY, HONEY--- THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE! YOU CAN'T TURN DOWN THAT OFFER FROM HARKNESS---HE'S TOPS IN THE BUSINESS! I'M SURE YOU'LL STILL FIND TIME TO MODEL FOR ME!



"SO I SIGNED WITH THE HARKNESS MODEL AGENCY---AND INSTANTLY MY LIFE BECAME REGIMENTED! I WAS PHOTOGRAPHED FROM EVERY ANGLE---I POSED FOR TOOTHPASTE ADVERTISEMENTS, FOR HAIR RINSES, STOCKINGS,---PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING!"

THAT'S IT! PERFECT!



"IN AN INCREDIBLY SHORT TIME, I WAS FAMOUS---AND MY INCOME HAD SHOT UP LIKE A ROCKET! I LEASED A FABULOUSLY EXPENSIVE APARTMENT---BOUGHT LUXURIOUS CLOTHES---FOUND MYSELF BESIEGED BY ARDENT SUITORS! THE MOST PERSISTENT WAS MILLIONAIRE PHILIP HARKNESS HIMSELF---"

AND WHERE SHALL WE DINE TONIGHT, MY RADIANT PRINCESS?

HMM, I THINK THE COLONY CLUB WILL DO, PHILIP!



"BUT I WAS ONLY COMPLETELY HAPPY WHEN I WAS IN THE STUDIO WITH MY BELOVED! I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIM---HIS WORK SEEMED TO BE SLOWING DOWN AND HE WAS INCLINED TO BE MOODY! ONE NIGHT I SLIPPED IN TO SEE HIM UNEXPECTEDLY---"

HELLO, DARLING, I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE YOU!

YEAH, THIS IS A SURPRISE---HOW COME YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME? THERE'S NOTHING SWANKY HERE!

"**I** WAS STARTLED BY THE ANGER IN HIS VOICE! THEN I SUDDENLY WONDERED IF HE COULD POSSIBLY BE JEALOUS OF THE MEN I WAS GOING OUT WITH..."

I'M HERE BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!

LOVE ME! THAT'S A LAUGH, GWEN --- YOU LOVE ONLY YOURSELF! YOU'RE TURNED FROM A CHARMING, UNSPOILED GIRL INTO A SHALLOW, CONCEITED FLUTTER-BRAIN! SUCCESS HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOU --- YOU CAN'T TAKE IT!



"**H**IS WORDS WERE LIKE A LASH ACROSS MY STRICKEN HEART! TOO STUNNED AND HURT TO REPLY, I FELT HIM PUSH ME TOWARDS THE DOOR..."

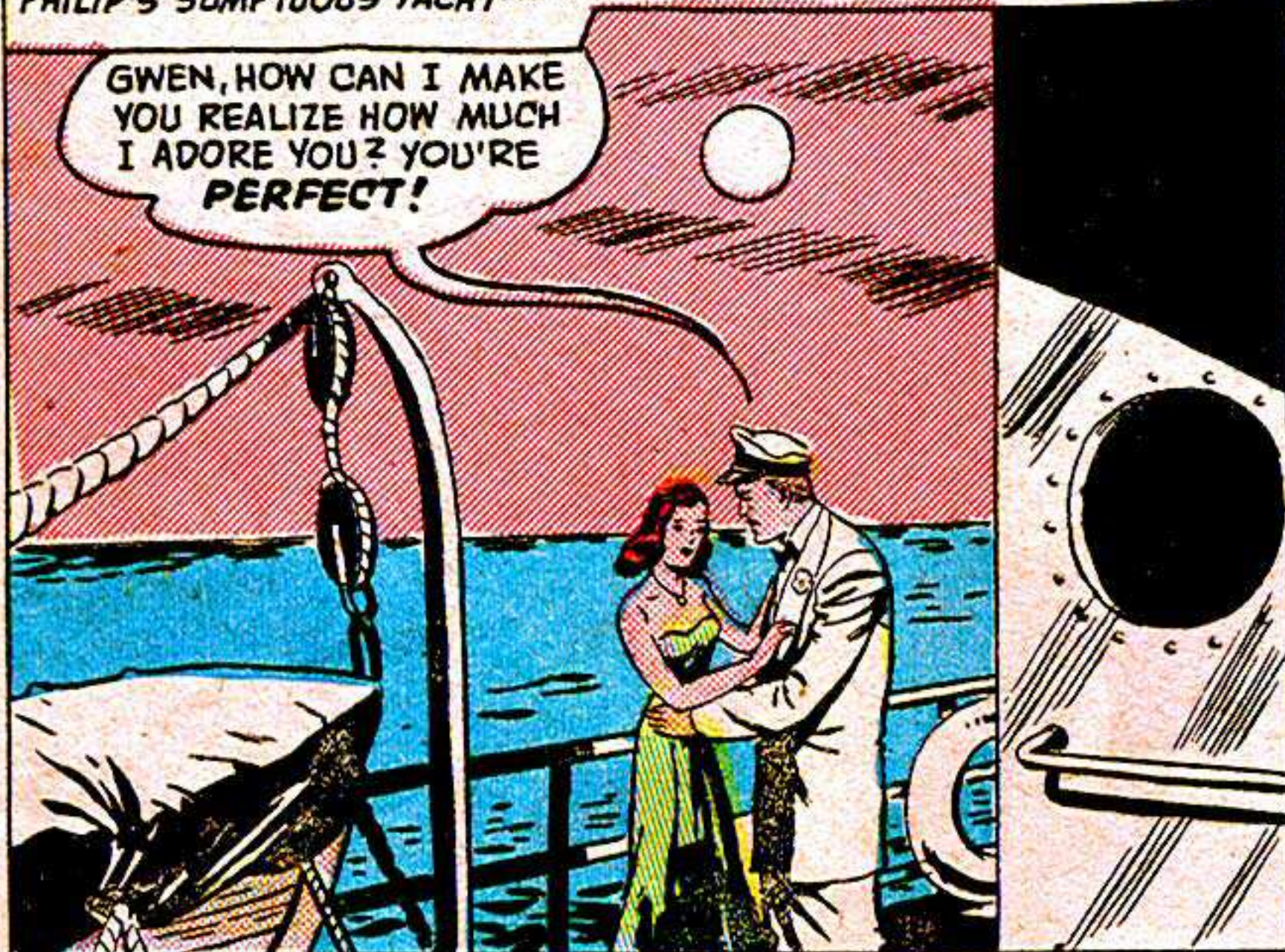
GO YOUR OWN WAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, CONRAD --- I WILL!



"**A**NGER FINALLY DRIED MY TEARS, AND I REBELLED! IF CONRAD DIDN'T WANT ME, OTHERS DID! AND SO I TRIED TO FORGET, ABOARD PHILIP'S SUMPTUOUS YACHT..."

GWEN, HOW CAN I MAKE YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH I ADORE YOU? YOU'RE PERFECT!

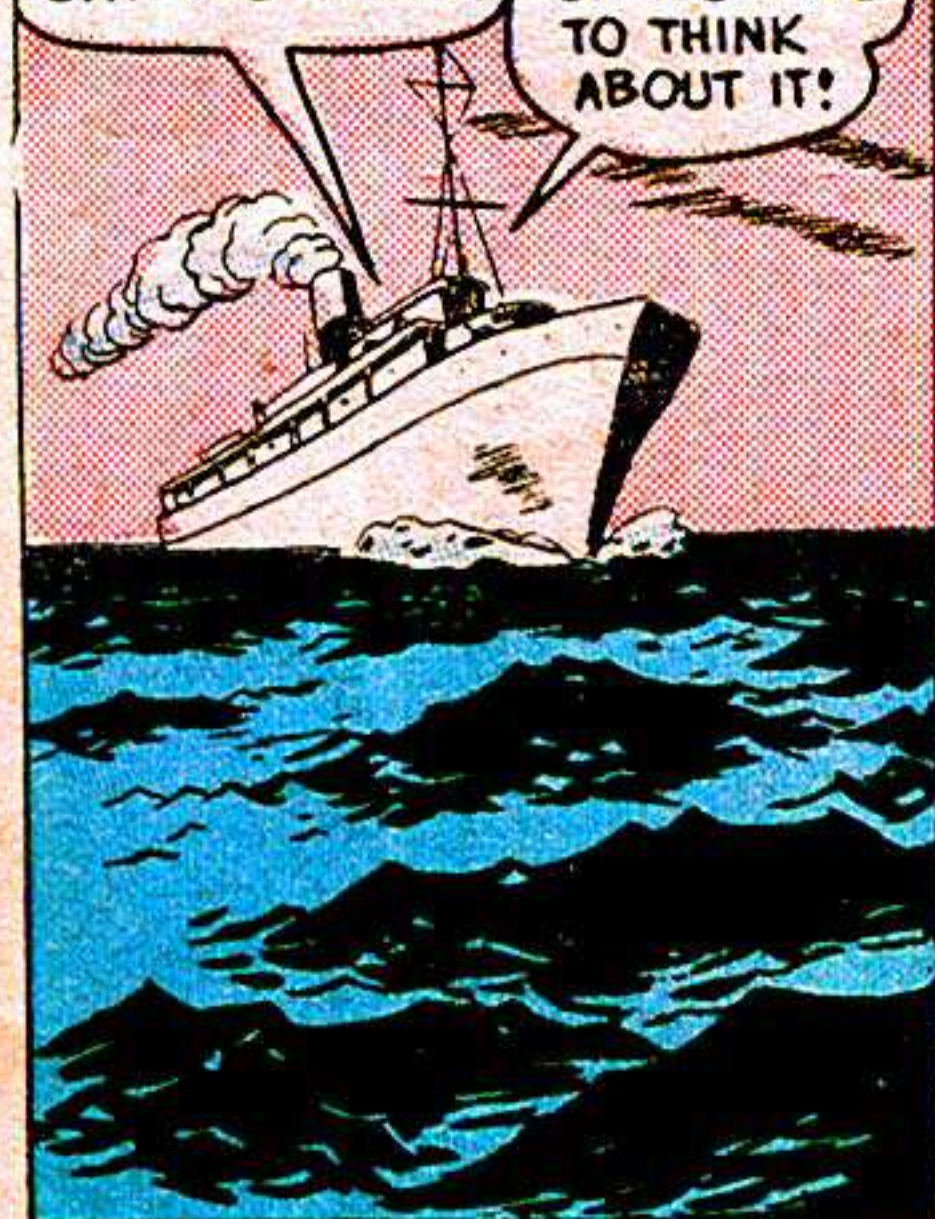


"**R**ELUCTANTLY, I LET MYSELF BE KISSED --- AND MY PUNISHMENT WAS THE MEMORY OF ANOTHER'S LIPS! PHILIP WAS SWEET, KIND --- A WONDERFUL CATCH --- BUT NO SURGE OF SUBLIME HAPPINESS PULSED THROUGH ME! NO --- I FELT ONLY ANGUISH AND HEARTBREAK AT MY IRREVOCABLE LOSS!"



I LOVE YOU, GWEN --- I WANT TO MARRY YOU! SAY YOU WILL!

MARRY YOU? --- OH, PHILIP --- GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT!



"**H**E HAD MONEY, POSITION --- AS HIS WIFE I WOULD NEVER FEEL WANT! BUT I COULDN'T MARRY HIM --- NOT UNTIL I SAW CONRAD AGAIN --- NOT UNTIL I MADE SURE THAT HE DIDN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE!"

I MUST TALK TO YOU, CONRAD ---

BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU... PLEASE GET OUT!

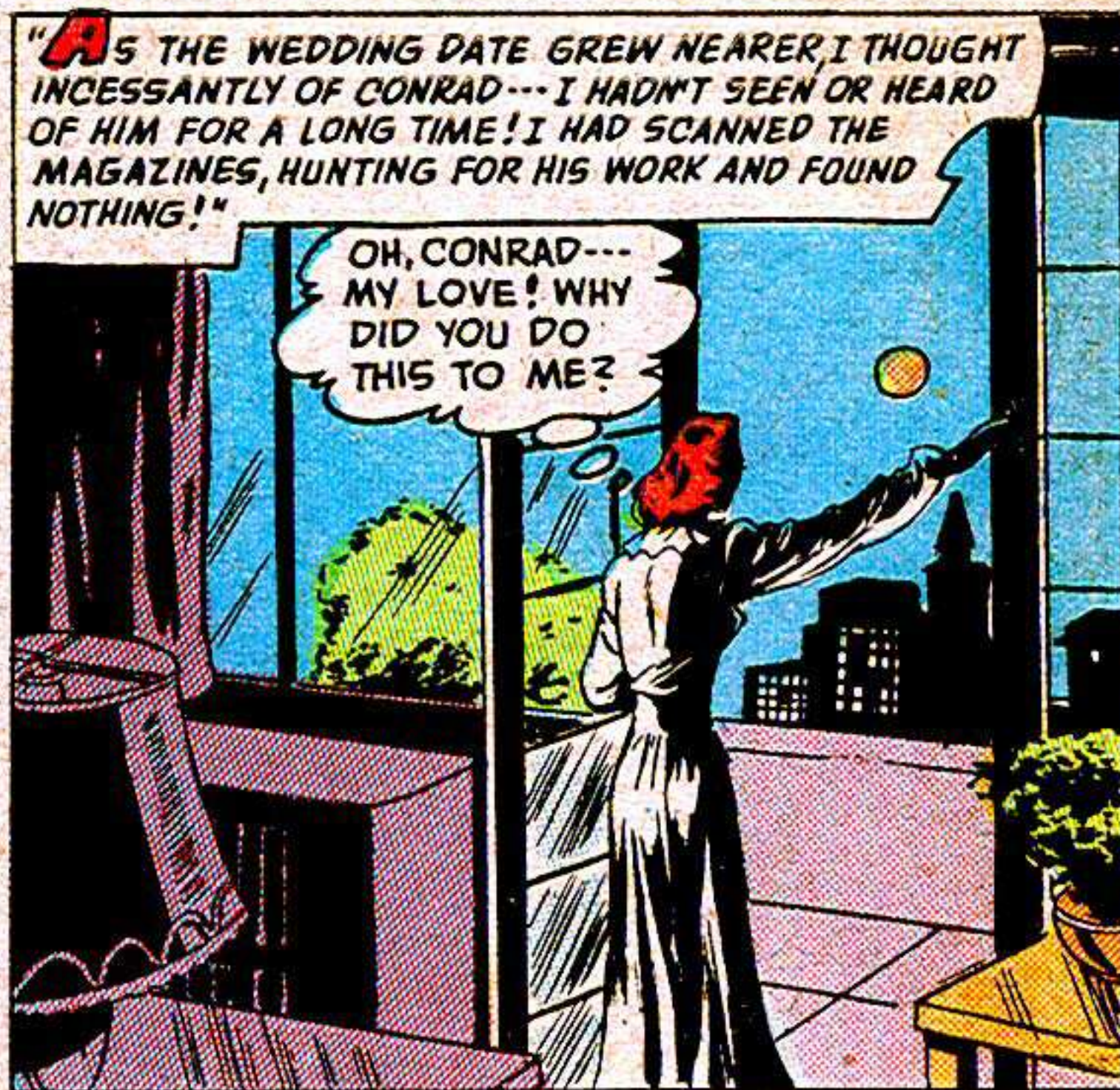


"**H**IS BRUSQUENESS --- COLDNESS --- IT WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR! SEETHING WITH HUMILIATION, I WENT STRAIGHT TO PHILIP..."

I'VE COME WITH MY ANSWER, PHILIP! IF YOU STILL WANT TO MARRY ME... I'M YOURS!

GWEN! MY SWEET-HEART!







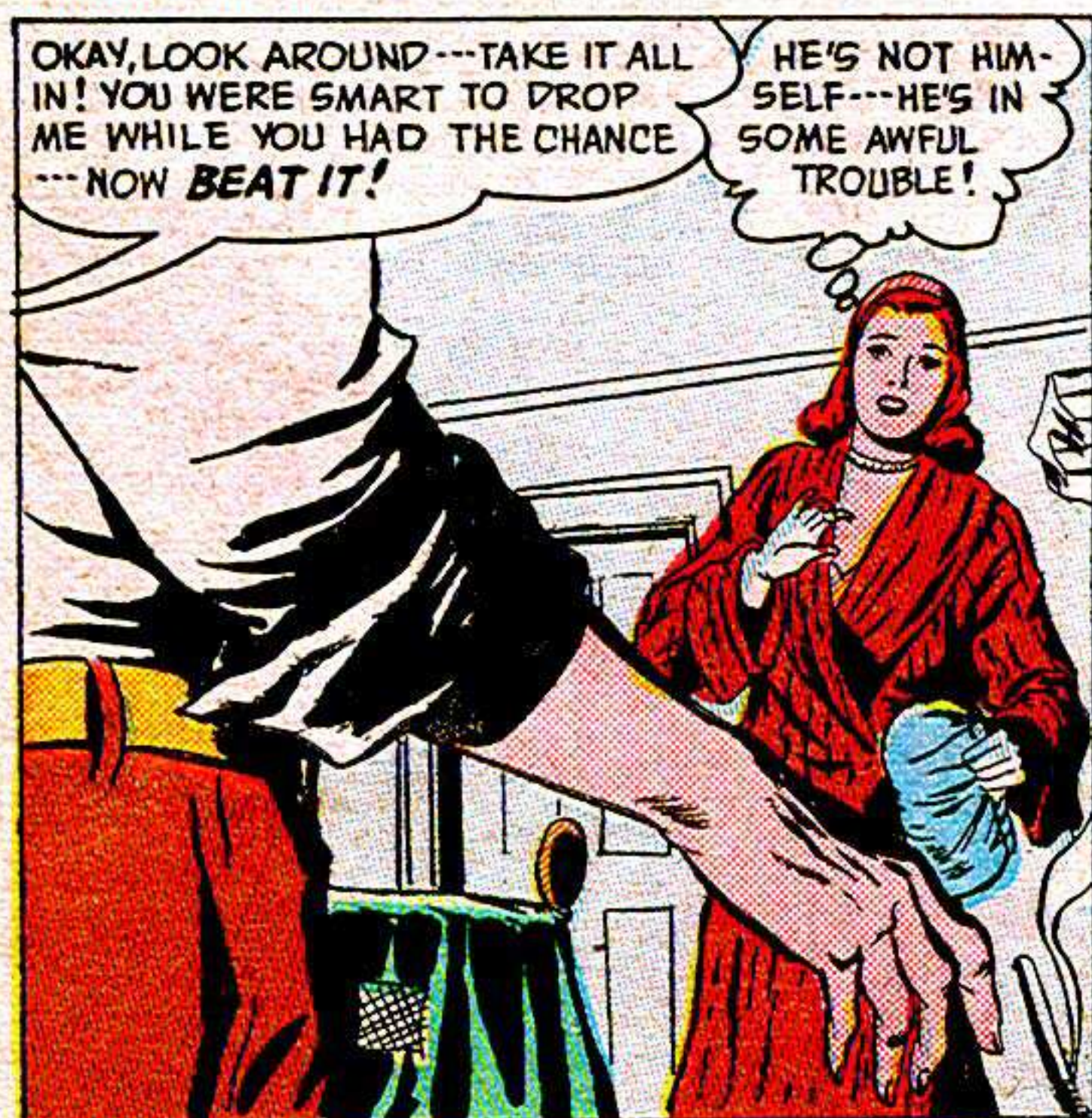
CONRAD ROGERS? YEAH, HE'S HERE... ALWAYS HERE... THIRD FLOOR REAR! BUT WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU VISITIN' THE LIKES O' HIM FOR?



"UP...UP THE GRIMY FLIGHTS OF STAIRS... A HURRIED KNOCK WHICH ECHOED THE POUNDING IN MY HEART...AND THEN...THE FACE OF THE MAN I LOVED...BUT OH, SO TERRIBLY WASTED AND CHANGED!"

YOU!

YES, CONRAD! I HAD TO SEE YOU, HAD TO TALK TO YOU!



OKAY, LOOK AROUND---TAKE IT ALL IN! YOU WERE SMART TO DROP ME WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE---NOW BEAT IT!

HE'S NOT HIMSELF---HE'S IN SOME AWFUL TROUBLE!



"I SAW THE CIGARETTE DROP FROM HIS FINGERS---AND THEN SOMETHING ELSE---THE JOINTS OF THE FINGERS OF HIS RIGHT HAND WERE SWOLLEN AND STIFF!"

CONRAD! WHAT'S THIS---YOUR HAND---

NOW YOU KNOW--- IT'S ARTHRITIS! MY RIGHT HAND IS CRIPPLED... MY PAINTING HAND! I'M THROUGH AS AN ARTIST!



NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND OUT EVERYTHING---GO BACK TO YOUR FIANCEE! I COULDN'T STAND YOUR SYMPATHY!

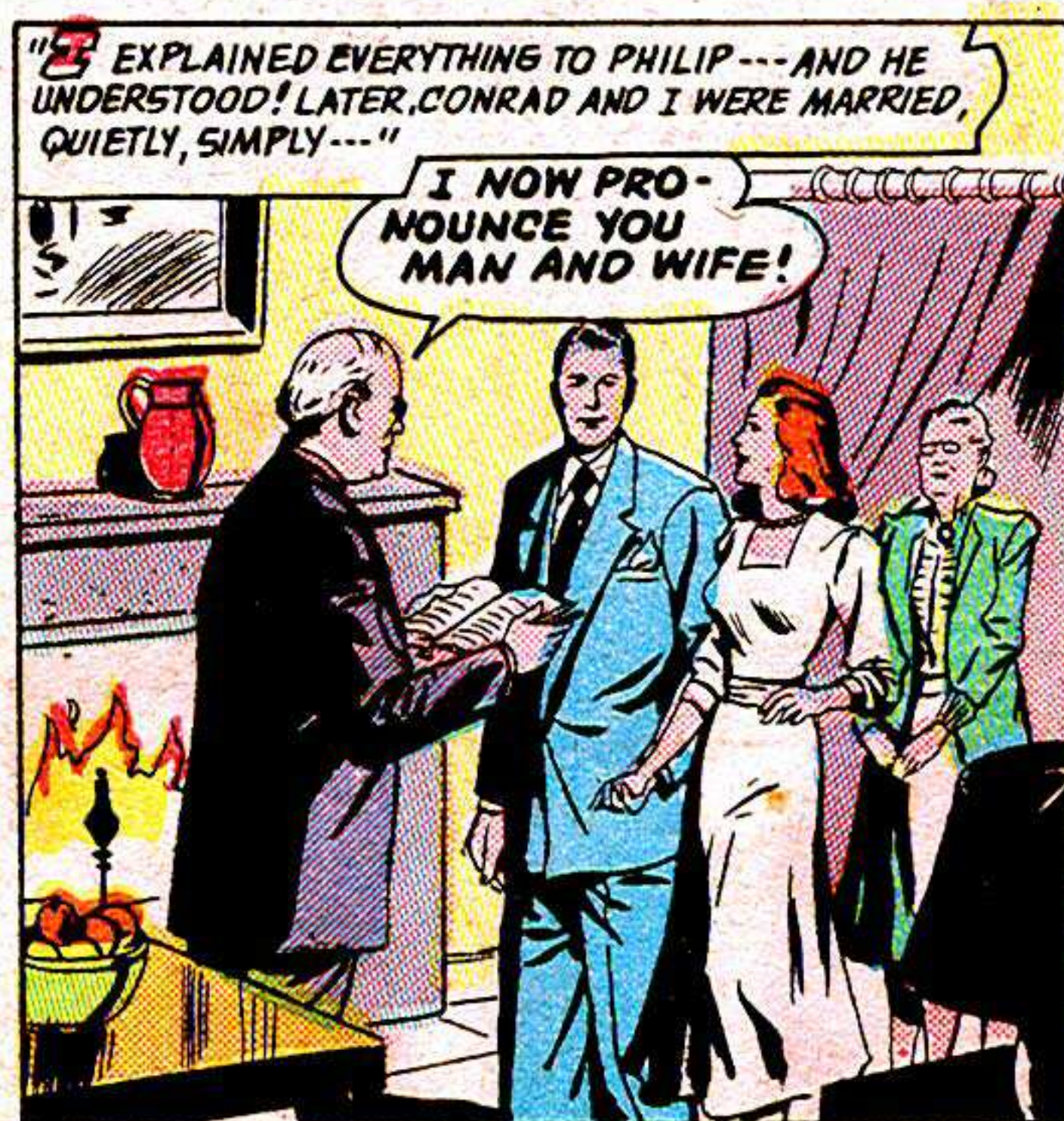
OH, MY POOR DARLING---YOU CAN'T FOOL ME ANY LONGER! NOW I KNOW WHY YOU BROKE WITH ME---YOU KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO YOUR HAND---YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO FEEL TIED TO YOU BY ANY FEELING OF LOYALTY---YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE FINISHED!



"THE TRUTH HAD BURST UPON ME IN A FLASH! POOR, DEAR WONDERFUL CONRAD! HE HAD WANTED ME TO GO UP AND UP---TO FORGET HIM! HIS LOVE FOR ME HAD GIVEN HIM THE STRENGTH TO GIVE ME UP!"

WHAT I SAID IS TRUE, ISN'T IT, CONRAD? AND IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT YOU STILL LOVE ME!

YES, GWEN, I LOVE YOU! I HAVE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU! BUT, LEAVE ME---PLEASE GO AWAY---YOU HAVE A BRILLIANT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU! I WOULD ONLY BE A DRAG!



NO PLACE for ELLIE!

ELLIE PRIDES HERSELF ON BEING **SUPER-SOPHISTICATED!** SHE THINKS A MAN'S IMPRESSED WHEN ...

HELLO, LOVELY, HOW ABOUT A DATE? SAY, A WEEK FROM TONIGHT?



I'LL TRY TO GET TICKETS FOR "ROMANCE ON THE ROCKS"! THEY SAY IT'S A GREAT SHOW!

DON'T BOTHER, I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT!

HOW ABOUT THE MOVIES? THERE'S A NEW FILM OPENING AT THE---

OH, I WENT TO THE **PREVIEW** AGES AGO!



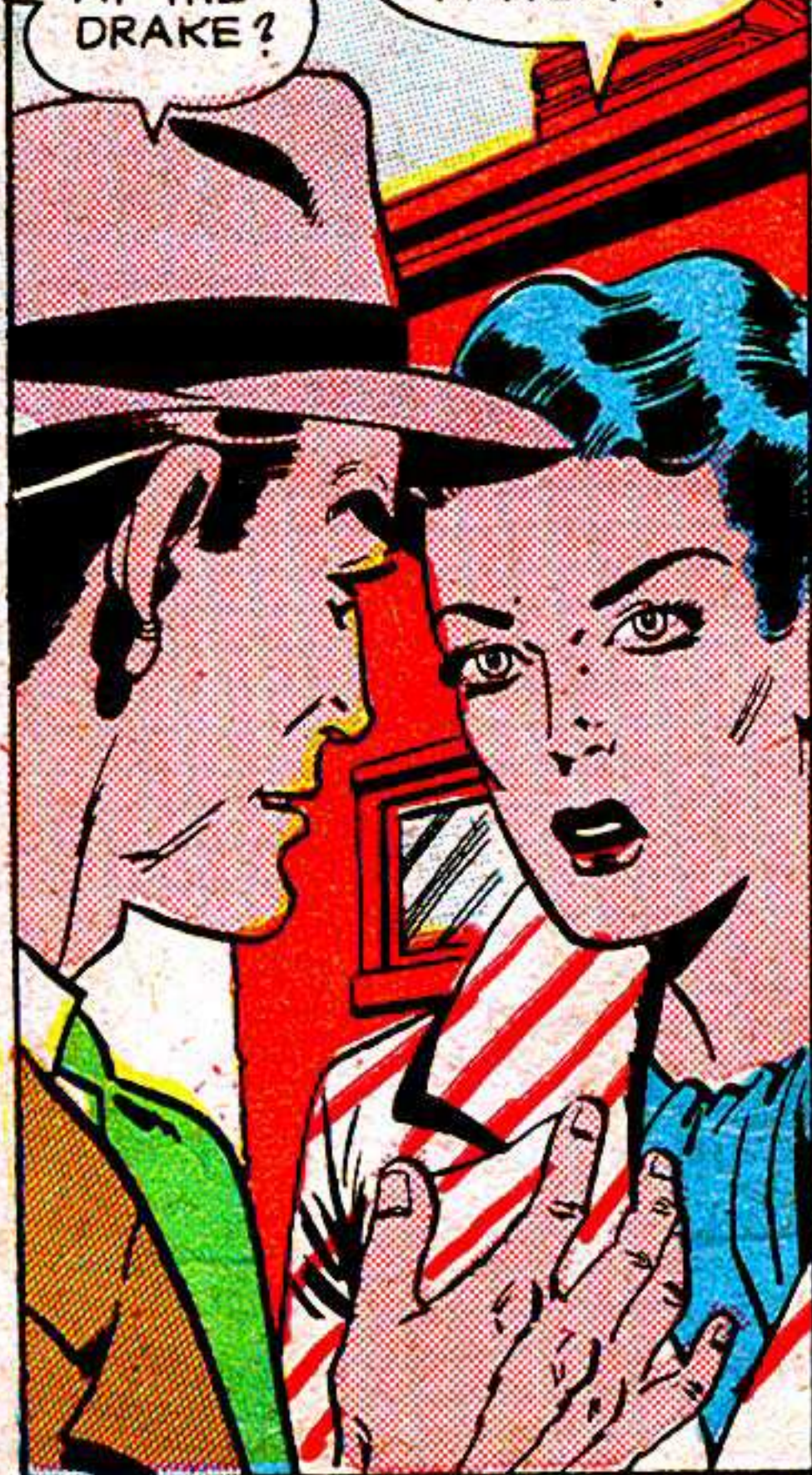
WHAT ABOUT DINNER AND DANCING AT THE HERON ROOM?

I'M **BORED STIFF** WITH THAT PLACE... I'VE BEEN THERE **SO OFTEN!**



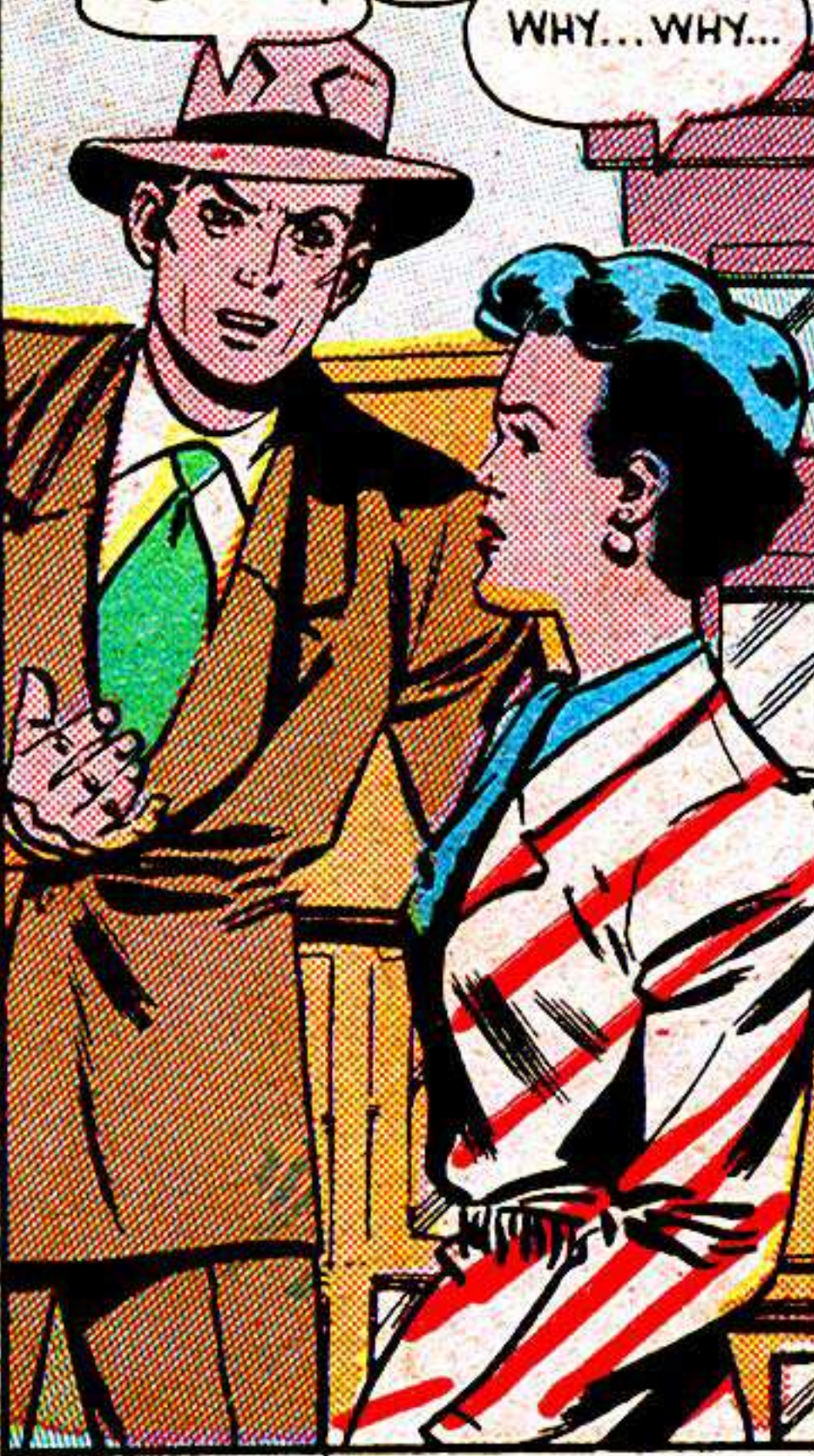
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SWIMMING AT THE DRAKE?

I **DO** GO SWIMMING THERE... **THREE TIMES A WEEK!**



UH... LOOK... I JUST REMEMBERED ... I'M NOT FREE THAT NIGHT, ANYWAY... UH... FAMILY OBLIGATIONS! LET'S SKIP IT!

WHY... WHY...



I **KNOW** HE MADE THAT UP... JUST TO **GET OUT OF DATING ME!** BUT... **WHY?**



DON'T YOU KNOW, ELLIE? BECAUSE THERE'S JUST **NO PLACE TO TAKE YOU!** AND IF YOU KEEP ON BEING **BORED AND BLASE...** THERE'LL BE **NO MAN TO ASK YOU!**

THE END

Campus ROMANCE

PLEASE, JIM," HARRIET pleaded looking up at her brother's annoyed face, "you...you've just got to do this for me! I've told you how much I love Gary Wilcox...and you're the only one who can help make him fall in love with me!"

"But holy cow, sis...you're just a 17-year-old freshman, and Gary's a 20-year-old junior!"

"Yes, I know very well that it's a tradition at this college that juniors and seniors never date frosh girls...but it's all so *foolish*! Gary's never taken me out, so he doesn't know what I'm like...but if he knew the love that's burning in my heart for him, I'm sure he'd realize that I'm not just a kid...but a *woman*!"

"Oh, all right, so the tradition is a ridiculous one," Jim said, "but I can't abuse my privileges as president of the Tau Delta fraternity just to help along my sister's romance! It...it would be *unethical*!"

"It would *not*! You admitted yourself that my idea is a good initiation stunt for your new members...and what's unethical about my helping out in your initiation ceremonies? Besides, isn't your kid sister's future happiness worth more to you than any old...?"

"Okay, okay, sis," Jim interrupted, embarrassed by the sudden appearance of tears in his sister's pleading eyes. "I...I can see how much this means to you...I'll go along with your little scheme! But all I can say is that it had better produce the results you want...or you're liable to wind up with an incurable case of heartbreak!"

"Just leave that to me," Harriet said, happily drying her eyes. "I'll take care of my end of things!"

The next afternoon, standing at the northwest corner of the campus, Gary Wilcox grinned at his companions. "Okay, you guys," he said, "what's the next step in my initiation into Tau Delta?"

Jim Parker glanced casually down at his watch, and saw that it was just about time for his sister to come strolling along the campus. "Well, as president of Tau Delta, I order you to grab and kiss the next girl who walks past us...no matter who she is!"

"I couldn't have suggested anything better myself," Gary laughed. "I just hope she's blonde, pretty, and twenty! Say, there's a girl walking toward us now!"

But as the girl drew nearer, Gary exclaimed, "Hey, that's your sister, Jim! I guess we'll wait for the next one, huh?"

Jim shook his head firmly. "Nope, I said no matter who she is...and I can't go back on my own word!"

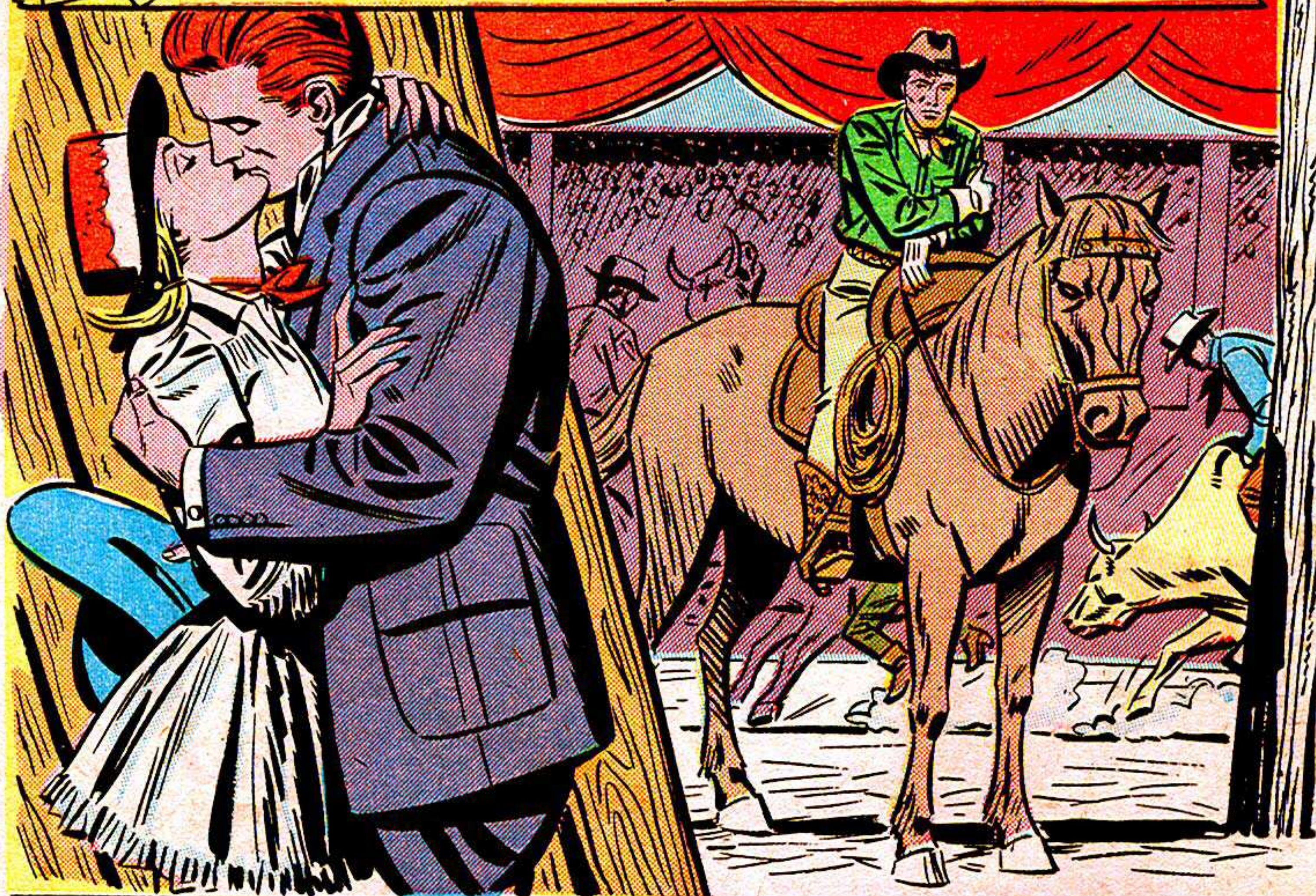
"Well, okay," Gary shrugged, "she is just a kid, but..."

Moments later, Harriet Parker pretended to gasp in surprise as Gary Wilcox stepped in her path, caught her in his arms and pressed his lips firmly upon hers. But then it was Gary's turn to gasp, for the fiery warmth of the embrace seared through him. A moment later, his perfunctory kiss had become thrillingly ardent...and when he realized that his kiss was being returned with unabashed love and tenderness, Gary knew for the first time the irresistible surge of the greatest emotion in the world...*love*!

"*Whew!*" he gasped as they parted to catch their breaths. "What an initiation *that* was...an initiation into love! Kid or not, I'm just going to *love* breaking campus tradition with you, sweetheart!"

"I'M BARBARA CONROY! YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN MY NAME DOZENS OF TIMES IN RODEO ADVERTISEMENTS -- BUT DESPITE ALL THE PUBLICITY STORIES ABOUT ME, THE REAL STORY OF MY ROMANCE HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN PRINTED! IT'S A STORY OF FOOLISH INFATUATION, HEARTSICK TORMENT, AND TRIUMPHANT LOVE -- THE ACCOUNT OF MY TRUE...

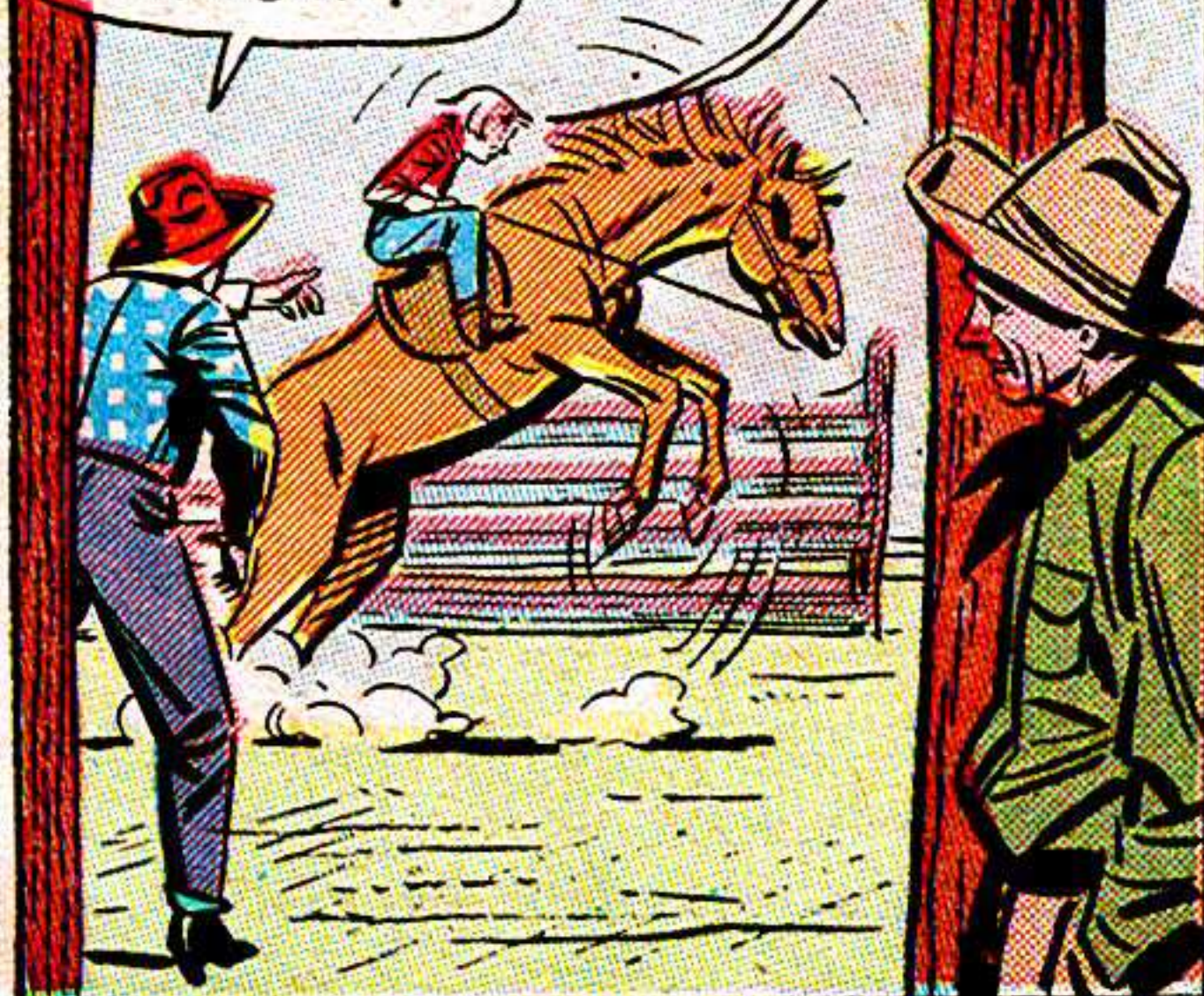
RODEO Romance



"MY FATHER, OWNER OF A SMALL RANCH IN MONTANA, PROUDLY SAID THAT I WAS BORN TO THE SADDLE! BUT IT WAS DAD WHO FIRST PUT ME THERE -- WHO TRIED TO MAKE ME TAKE THE PLACE OF THE SON HE DIDN'T HAVE!"

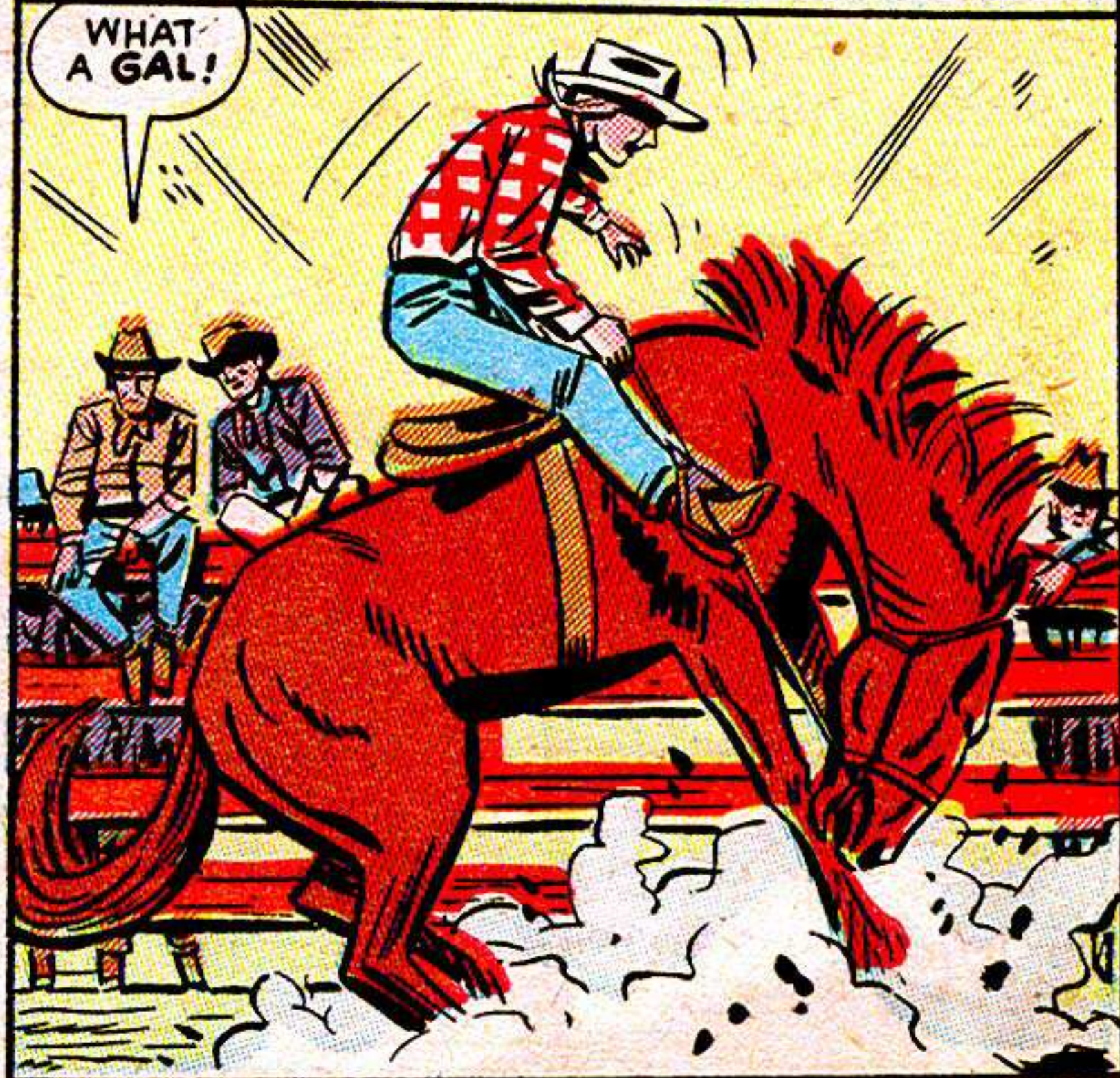
THAT'S IT, BOBBY! DON'T BE AFRAID OF THAT MUSTANG! RIDE HIM, COWBOY... ER, COWGIRL!

I... I'M NOT AFRAID, DADDY!



"AS I GREW OLDER, I GREW IN STRENGTH AND SKILL -- AND ALSO IN THE NUMBER OF MY ADMIRERS!"

WHAT A GAL!



"YES, I WAS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN A COUNTRY FILLED WITH MUSCLES AND MASCULINITY -- BUT IT WASN'T AS PLEASANT AS IT SOUNDS! FOR EXAMPLE, WHENEVER I SHOWED UP AT THE SATURDAY NIGHT SQUARE DANCE..."



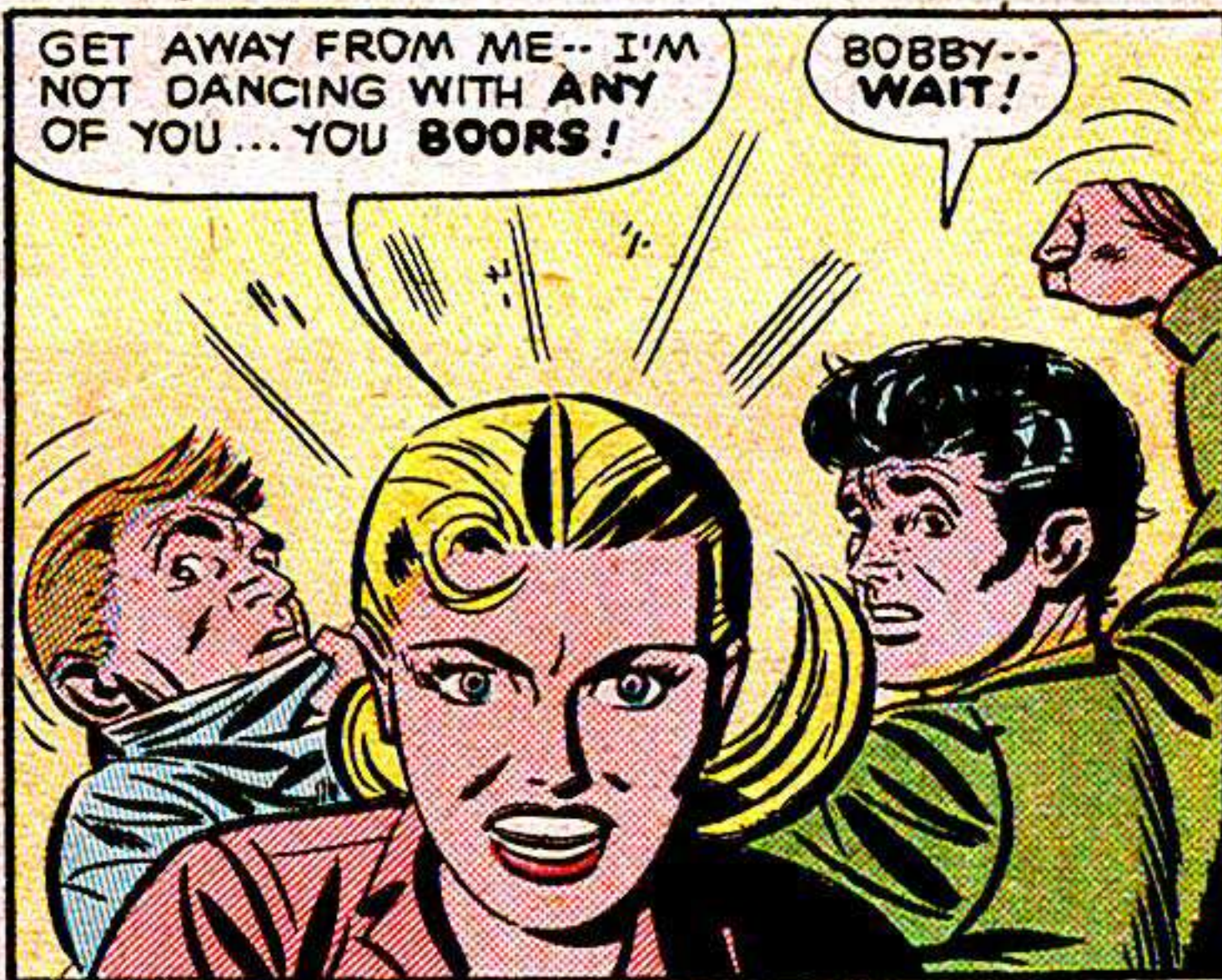
CHANGE PARTNERS!

BOBBY'S MY NEW PARTNER!

I GOT TO HER FIRST!

YOU TWO FIGHT IT OUT-- I'LL DANCE WITH HER!

"ALWAYS THEY ARGUED AND BRAWLED OVER ME-- BUT MY HEART WAS AS ROMANTIC AS ANY GIRL'S-- AND I LONGED TO BE WOODED GALLANTLY... TENDERLY! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT..."



GET AWAY FROM ME-- I'M NOT DANCING WITH ANY OF YOU... YOU BOORS!

BOBBY-- WAIT!

"THIS WAS THE ONE ADMIRER MORE DETERMINED THAN THE OTHERS -- TEX HARRIS, FOREMAN OF THE RANCH!"



HOLD ON, BOBBY-- WHY'D YUH RUN OFF?

LET GO OF ME, YOU BIG OAF! WHY CAN'T YOU BE A GENTLEMAN-- THE WAY THOSE MEN OVER AT THE REGAL DUDE RANCH ARE?



OH, THEM AGAIN, EH? WAL, I KNOW WHAT'LL STOP YOU FROM MOONIN' OVER THOSE SISSIFIED EASTERNERS!

NO-- DON'T YOU DARE!--

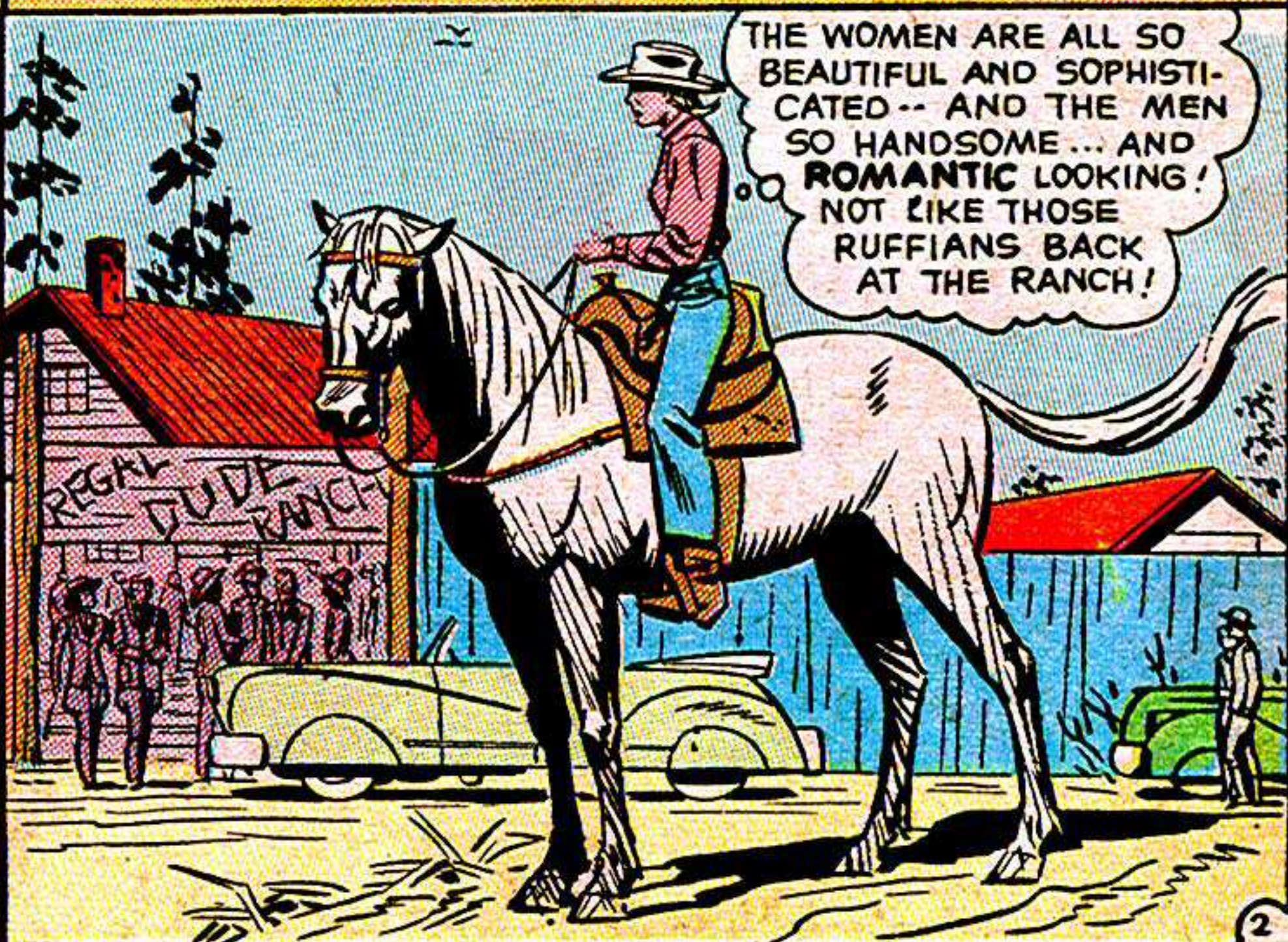
CRACK!



HEY, COME BACK HERE, YUH SLIPPERY LITTLE WILDCAT!

WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO BE KISSED, IT WON'T BE BY THE LIKES OF YOU, TEX HARRIS!

"ALWAYS I THOUGHT OF THE REGAL DUDE RANCH-- THAT NEARBY EXCLUSIVE SPOT WHICH HAD GIVEN ME A GLIMPSE OF A FASCINATING LIFE THAT I LONGED TO BE PART OF!"



THE WOMEN ARE ALL SO BEAUTIFUL AND SOPHISTICATED-- AND THE MEN SO HANDSOME... AND ROMANTIC LOOKING! NOT LIKE THOSE RUFFIANS BACK AT THE RANCH!

"I SPENT EN-
VIOUS HOURS
JUST WATCH-
ING-- ALWAYS
FROM THE OUT-
SIDE LOOKING
IN-- ALWAYS
EATING MY
HEART OUT
OVER THE
ROMANCE
THAT WAS
SO CLOSE,
YET SO FAR
FROM ME!"

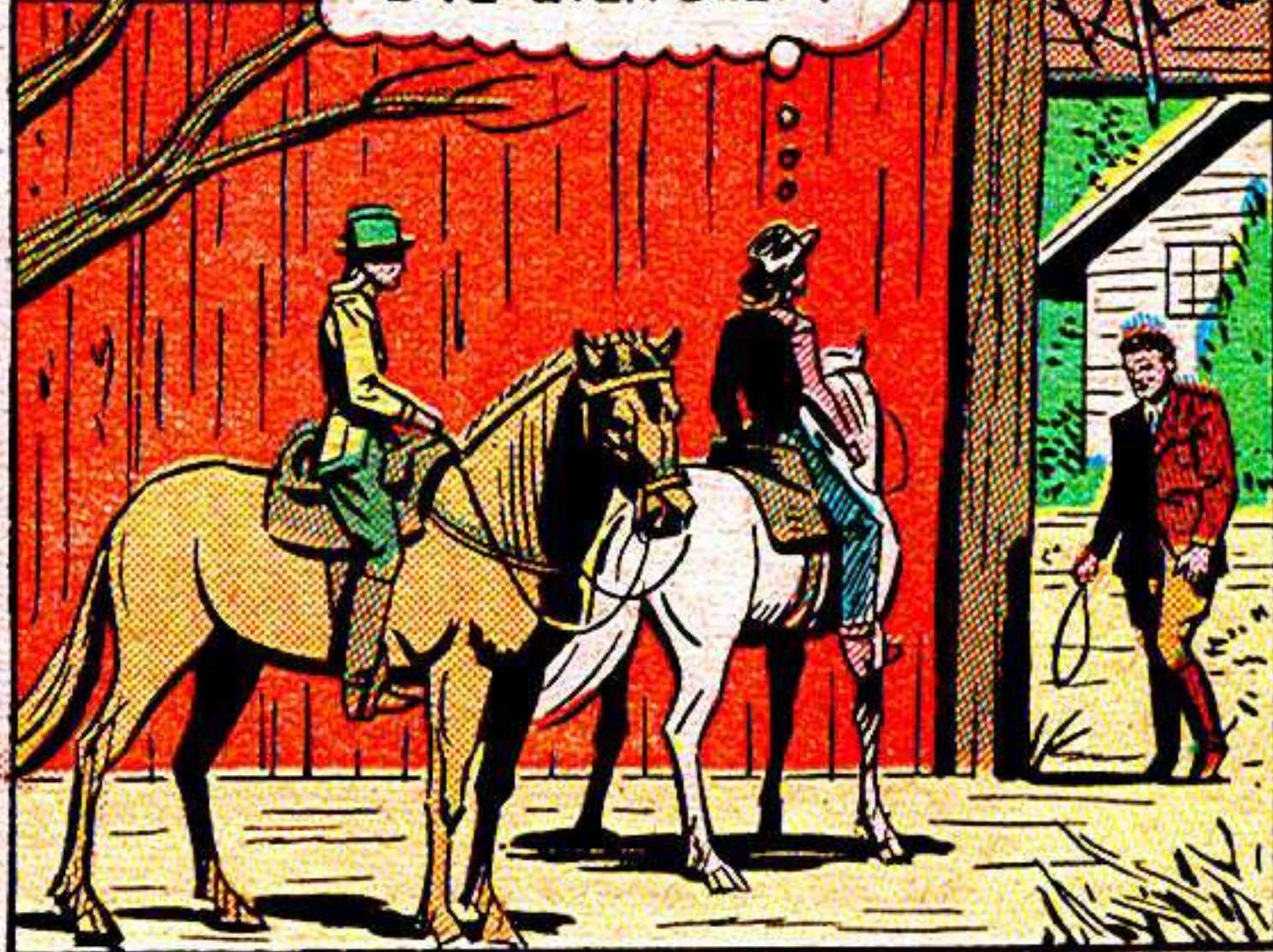


THAT'S THE WAY I WANT TO
BE WOODED! BUT THOSE COW-
BOYS BACK AT THE RANCH--
THEY TREAT A GIRL AS IF
SHE WERE A LASSOED
HEIFER!

"THEN--
AS I
MOUNTED
TO DEPART..."

BY GEORGE, YOU LOOK UTTERLY
RAVISHING ON THAT HORSE!

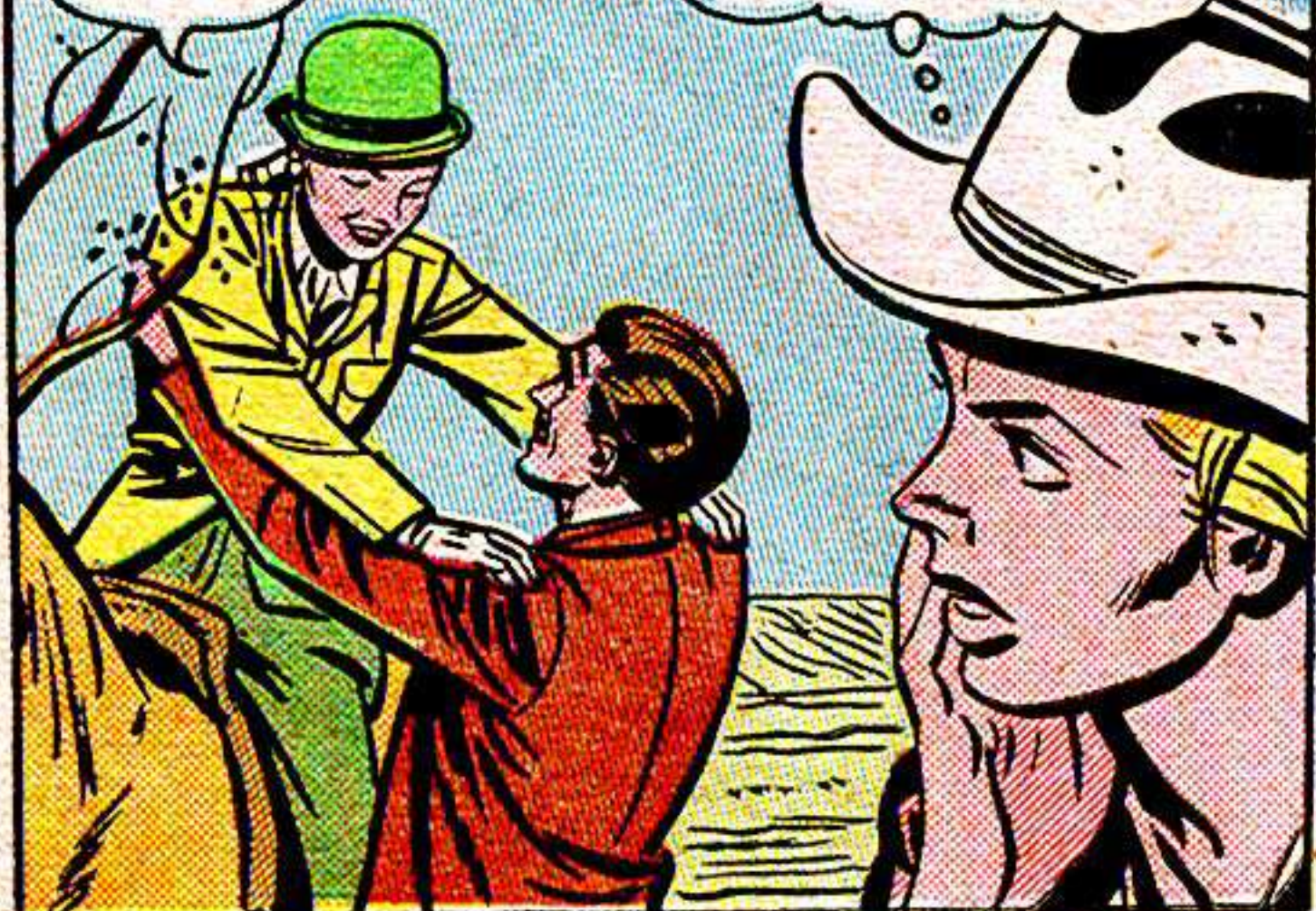
HE'S LOOKING IN MY
DIRECTION-- HE MEANS
ME! AND HE'S THE
HANDSOMEST MAN
I'VE EVER SEEN!



"BUT A MOMENT LATER..."

GLENN,
DEAR...

HE... HE WALKED
RIGHT PAST ME--
AS IF HE DIDN'T
EVEN SEE ME!



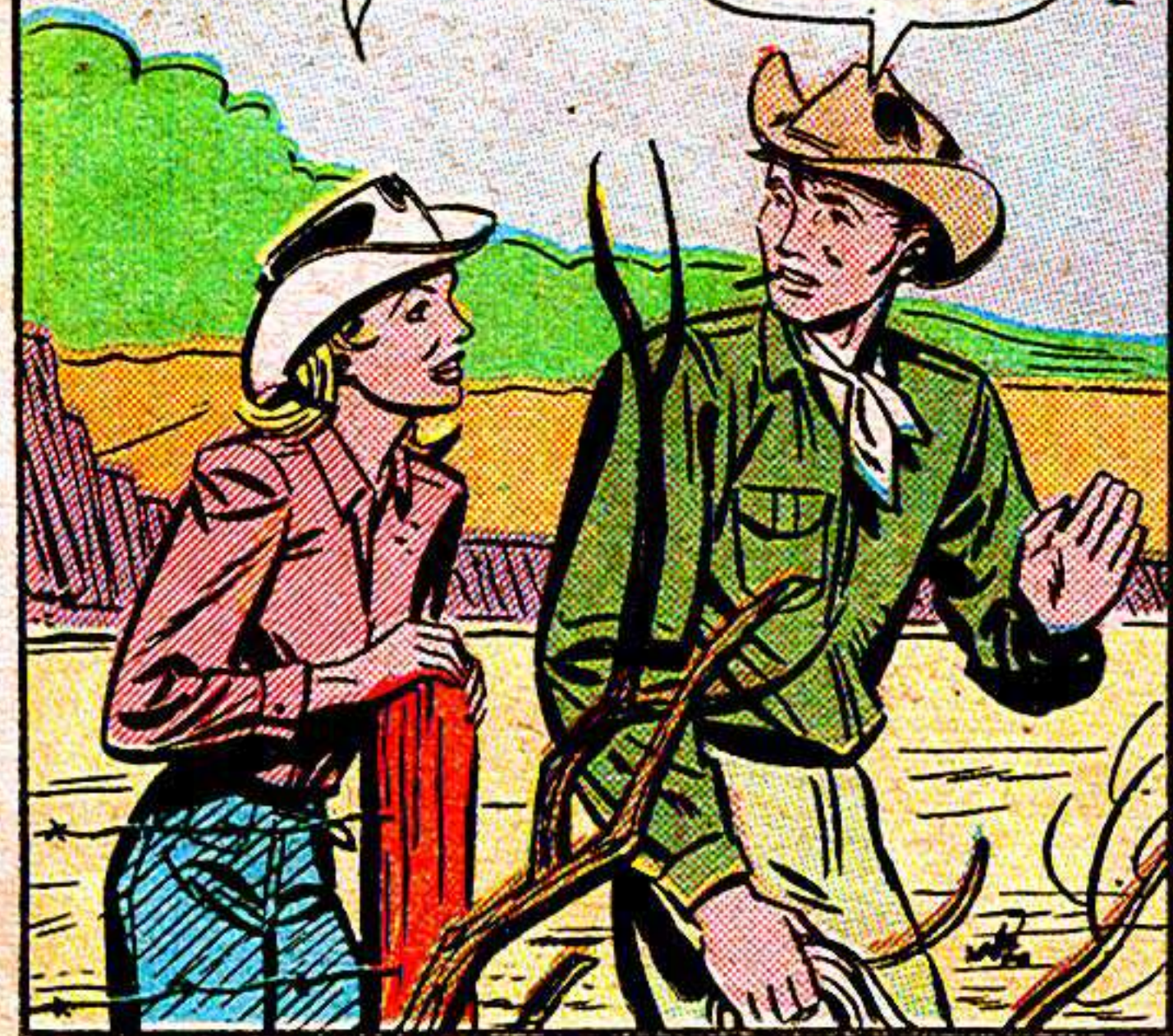
"STUNG WITH ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, I DETER-
MINED TO MAKE THAT MAN NOTICE ME!"

THE MOMENT I SAW HIM, I KNEW HE MIGHT
BE THE MAN I WAS MEANT FOR-- AND I'M
NOT GOING TO GIVE UP SO
EASILY! I'VE GOT TO OUT-
SHINE THAT OTHER GAL IN
SOME WAY-- AND THERE'S
ONE FIELD IN WHICH I
KNOW I'M SUPERIOR
TO HER!



TEX, I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA! HOW ABOUT
US SHOWING THOSE EASTERNERS AT THE
DUDE RANCH SOME REAL WESTERN
ACTION? LET'S PUT ON A
RODEO FOR THEM
THIS SUNDAY!

WORK ON OUR
--DAY OFF?
WHAT FOR?

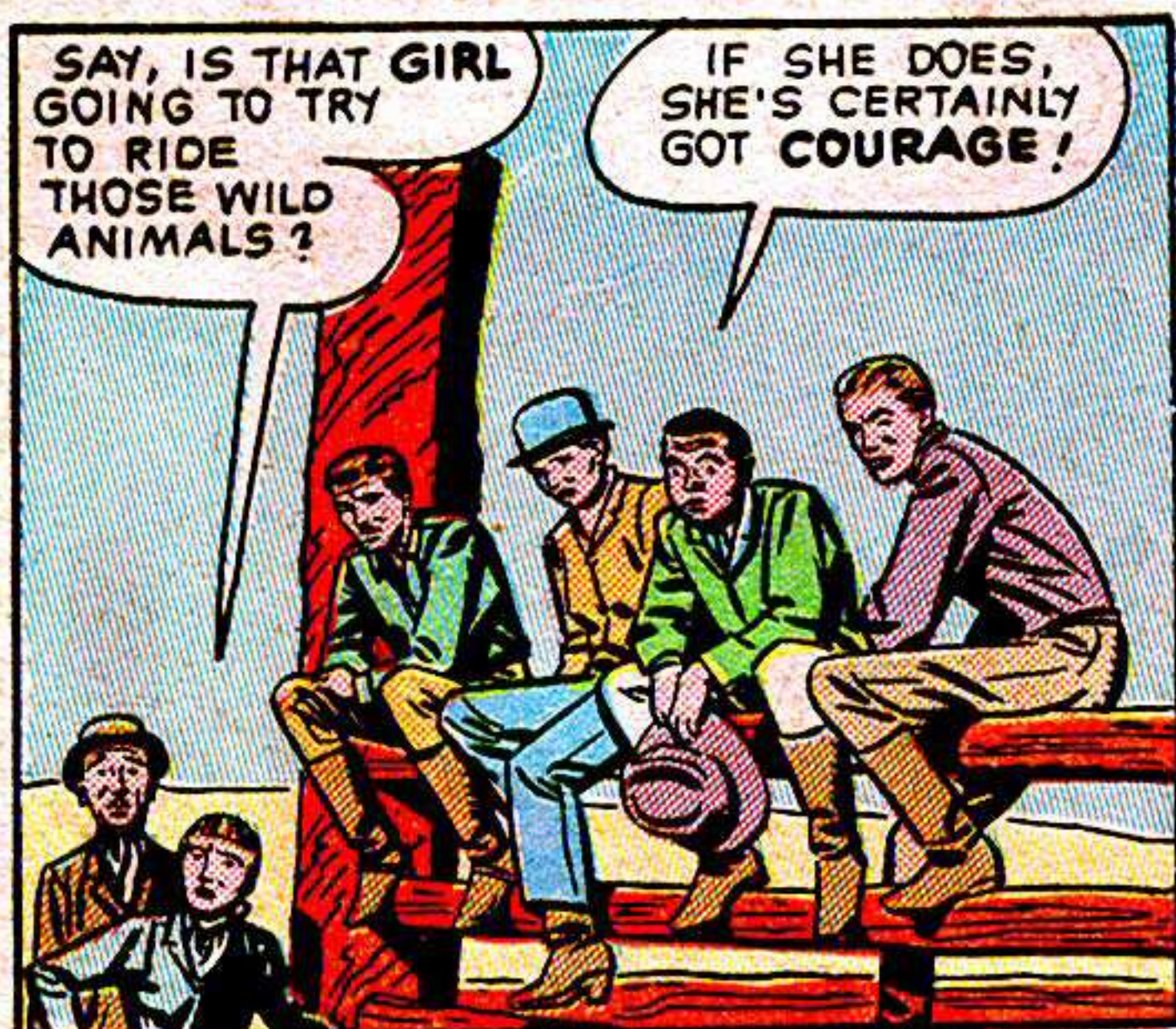


FOR
ME,
TEX!

WAL, I... I RECKON I CAN'T TURN
YOU DOWN IF YOU PUT IT THAT
WAY, BOBBY!



"SURE ENOUGH, TEX ORGANIZED THE MAKESHIFT RODEO, SECURING THE PERMISSION OF THE REGAL DUDE RANCH TO PERFORM AT THEIR CORRAL! WHEN SUNDAY ROLLED AROUND..."

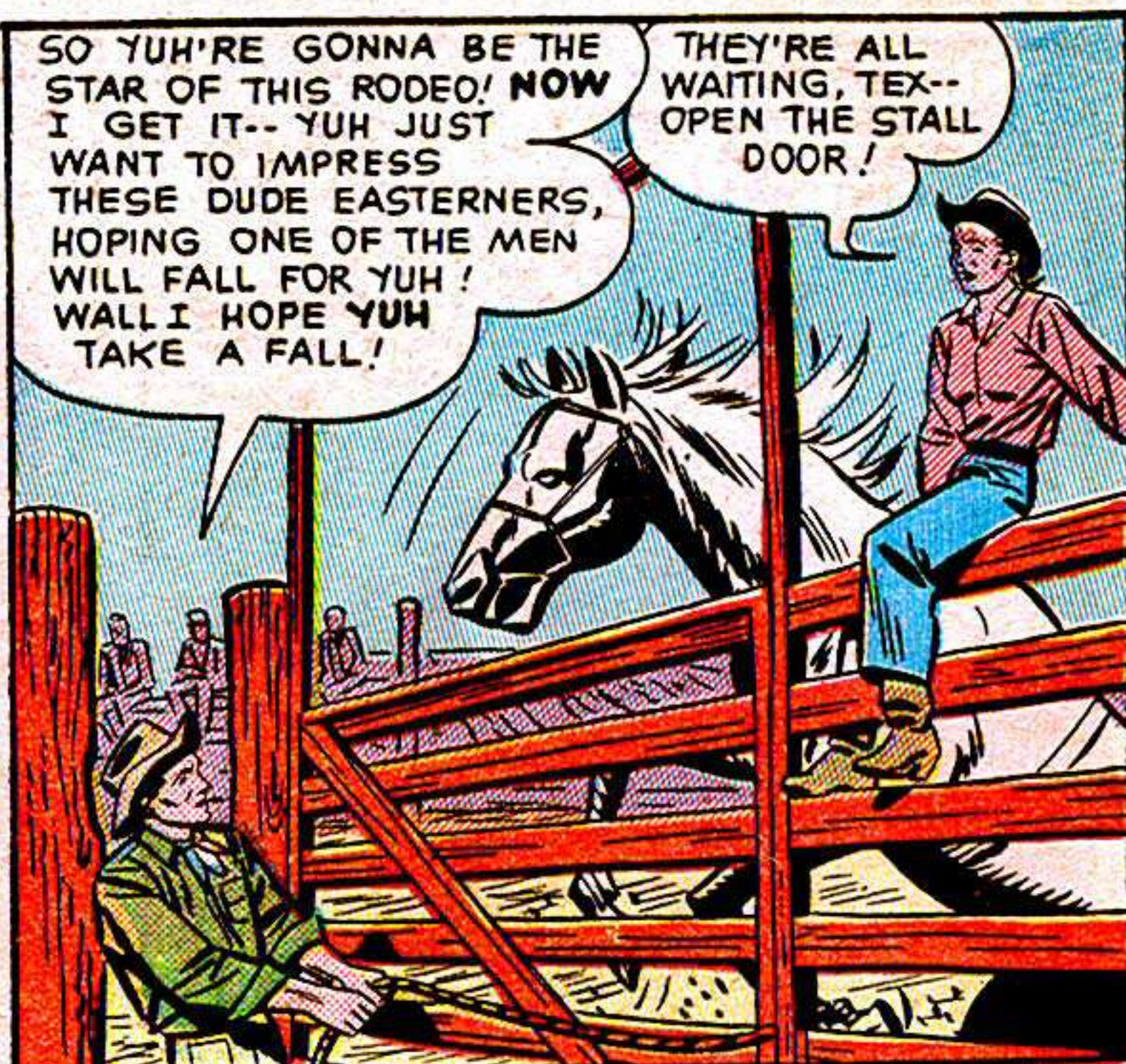


SAY, IS THAT GIRL GOING TO TRY TO RIDE THOSE WILD ANIMALS?

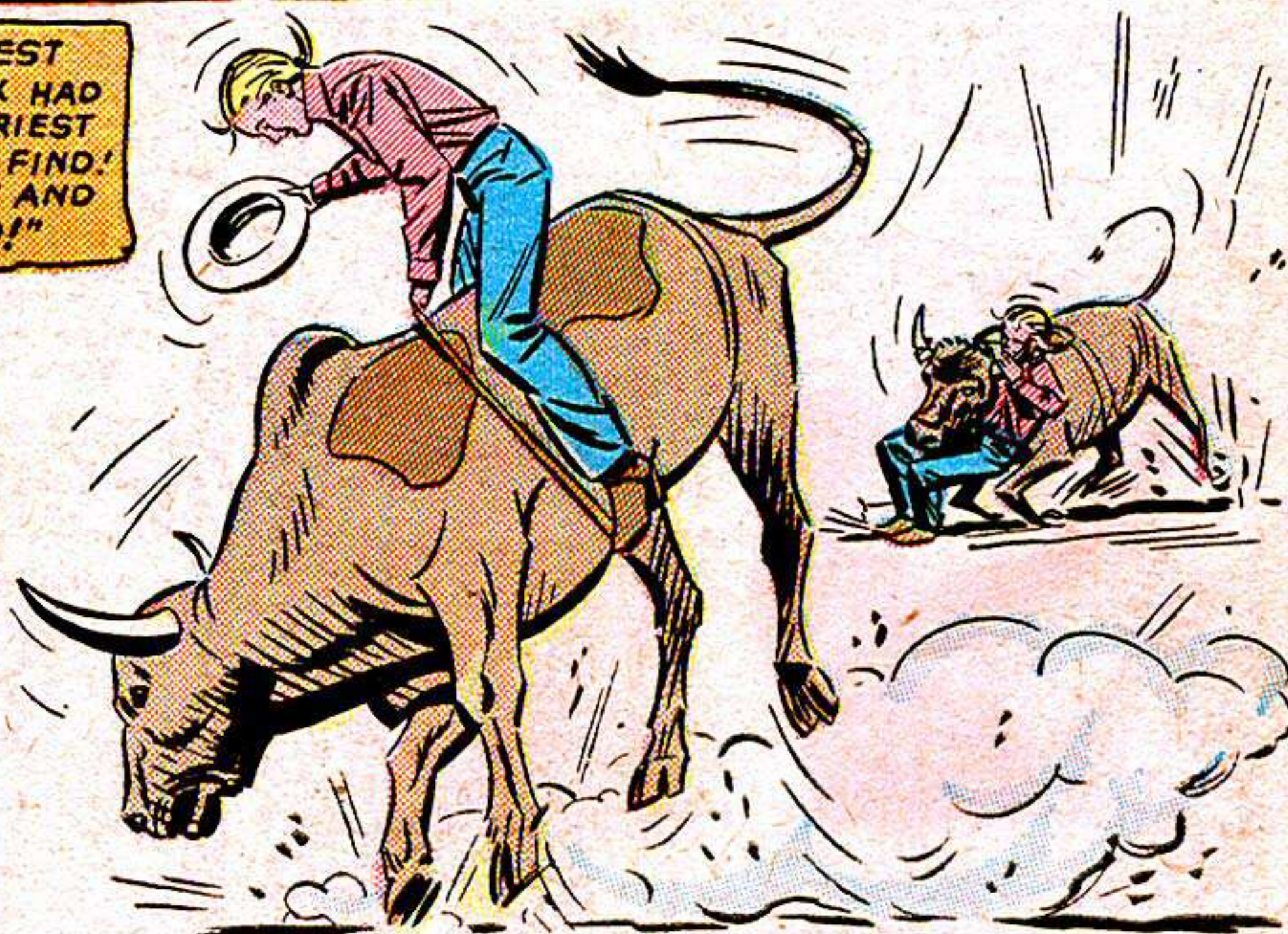
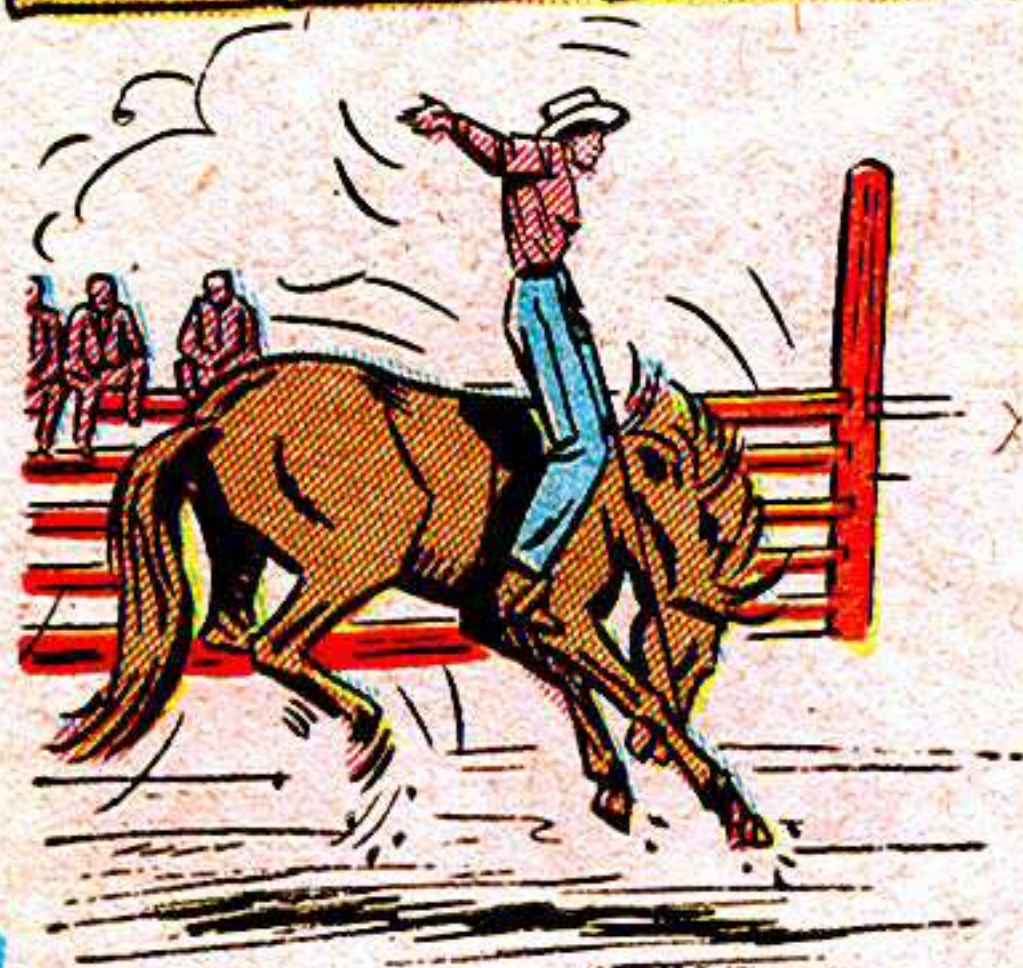
IF SHE DOES, SHE'S CERTAINLY GOT **COURAGE!**

SO YUH'RE GONNA BE THE STAR OF THIS RODEO! NOW I GET IT-- YUH JUST WANT TO IMPRESS THESE DUDE EASTERNERS, HOPING ONE OF THE MEN WILL FALL FOR YUH! WALL I HOPE YUH TAKE A FALL!

THEY'RE ALL WAITING, TEX-- OPEN THE STALL DOOR!



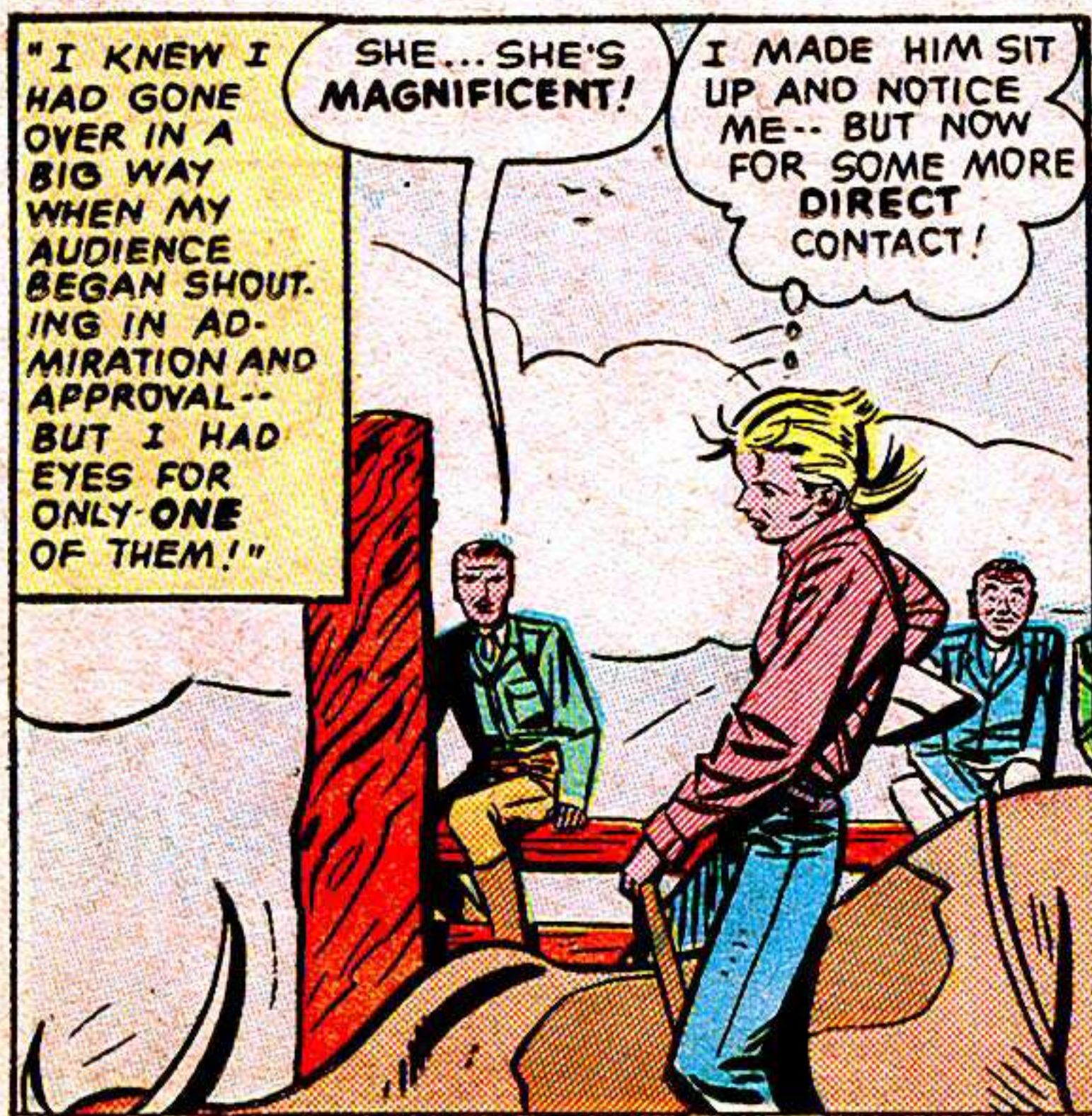
"THEN I WAS OFF-- ON THE WILDEST SERIES OF RIDES IN MY LIFE! TEX HAD PICKED OUT THE STRONGEST, ORNERIEST MUSTANGS AND BULLS HE COULD FIND! I ROPED AND RODE AS IF MY LIFE AND LOVE DEPENDED ON IT-- AS IT DID!"



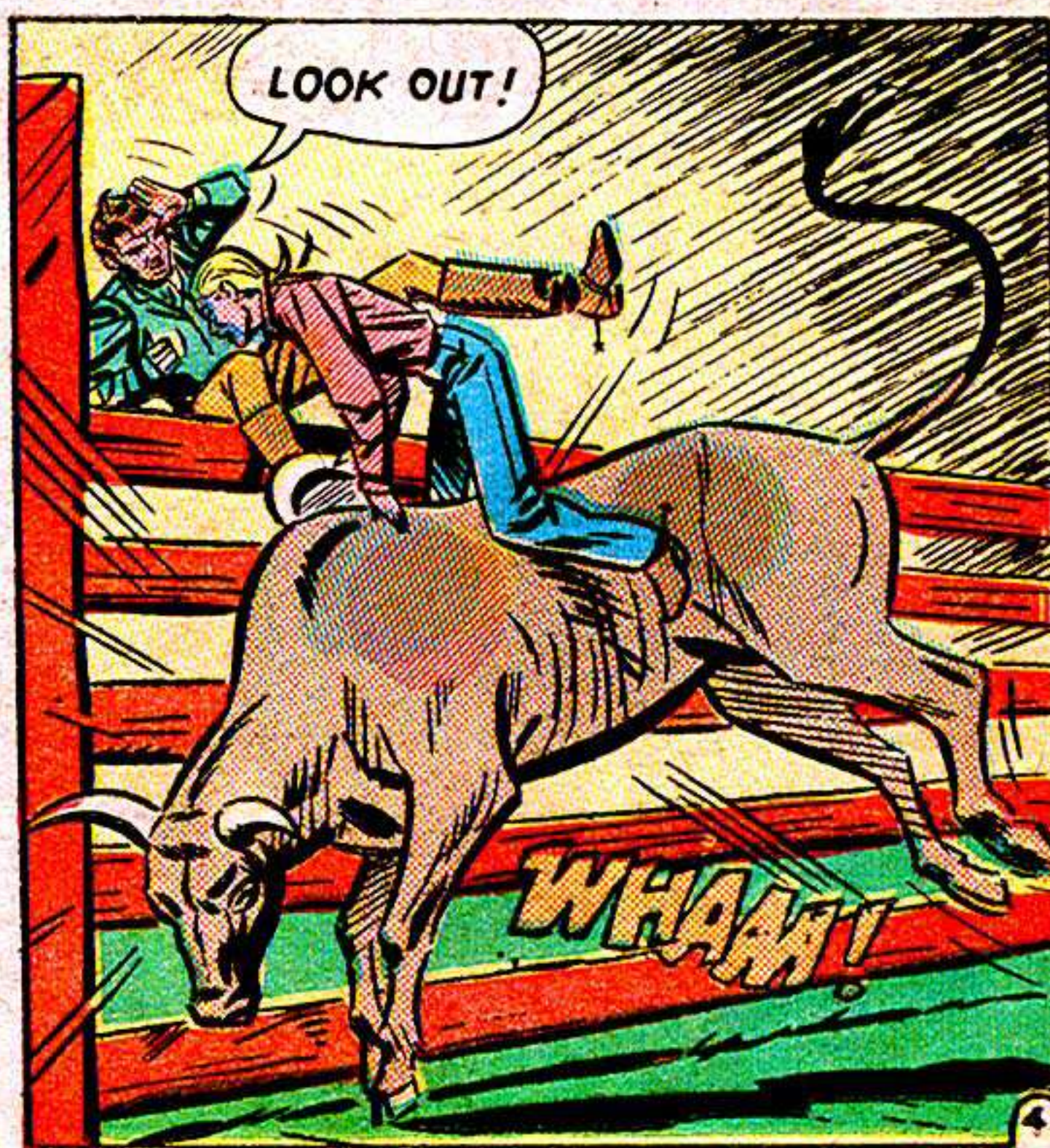
"I KNEW I HAD GONE OVER IN A BIG WAY WHEN MY AUDIENCE BEGAN SHOUTING IN ADMIRATION AND APPROVAL-- BUT I HAD EYES FOR ONLY ONE OF THEM!"

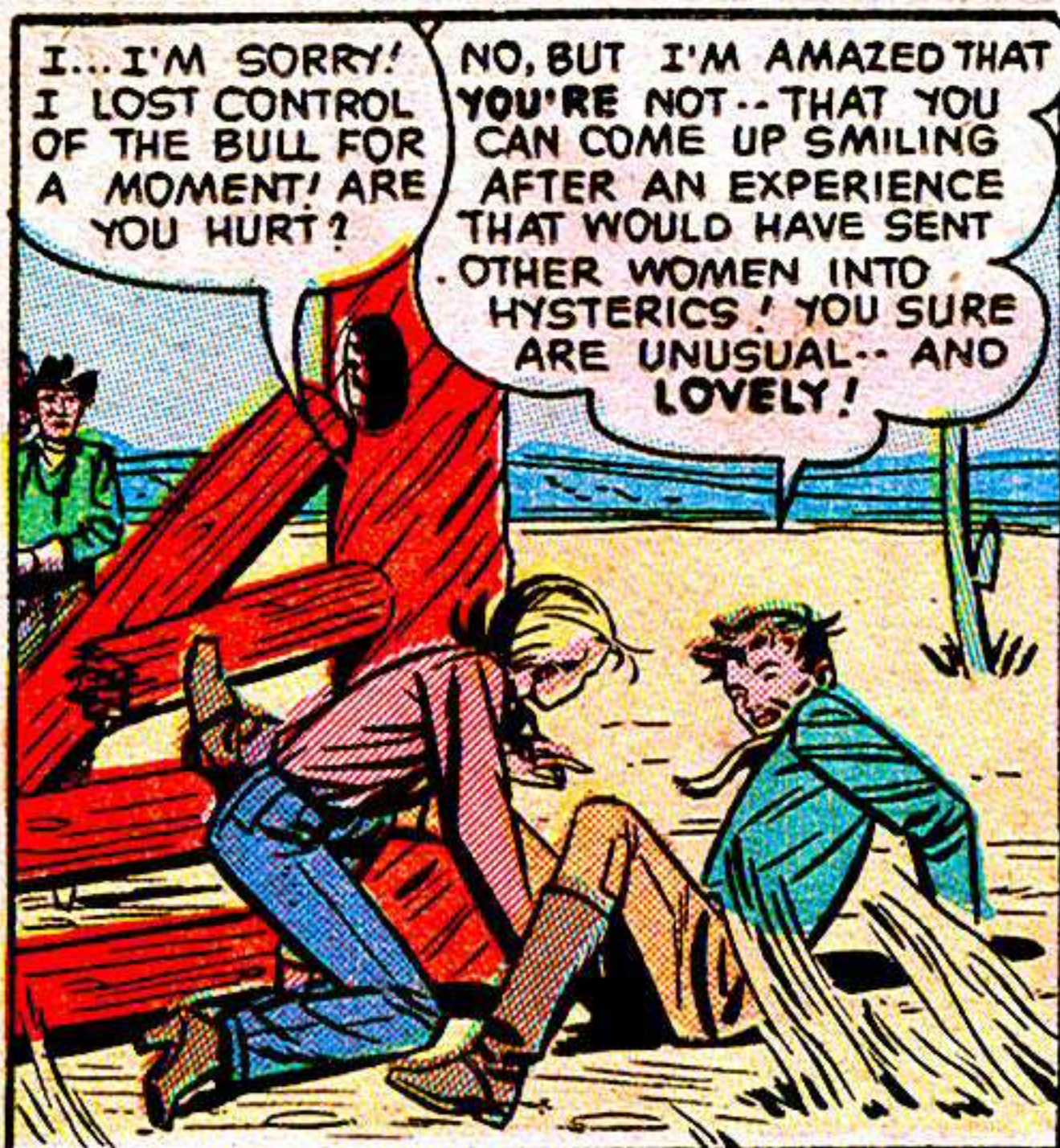
SHE... SHE'S **MAGNIFICENT!**

I MADE HIM SIT UP AND NOTICE ME-- BUT NOW FOR SOME MORE **DIRECT CONTACT!**



LOOK OUT!





I... I'M SORRY! I LOST CONTROL OF THE BULL FOR A MOMENT! ARE YOU HURT?

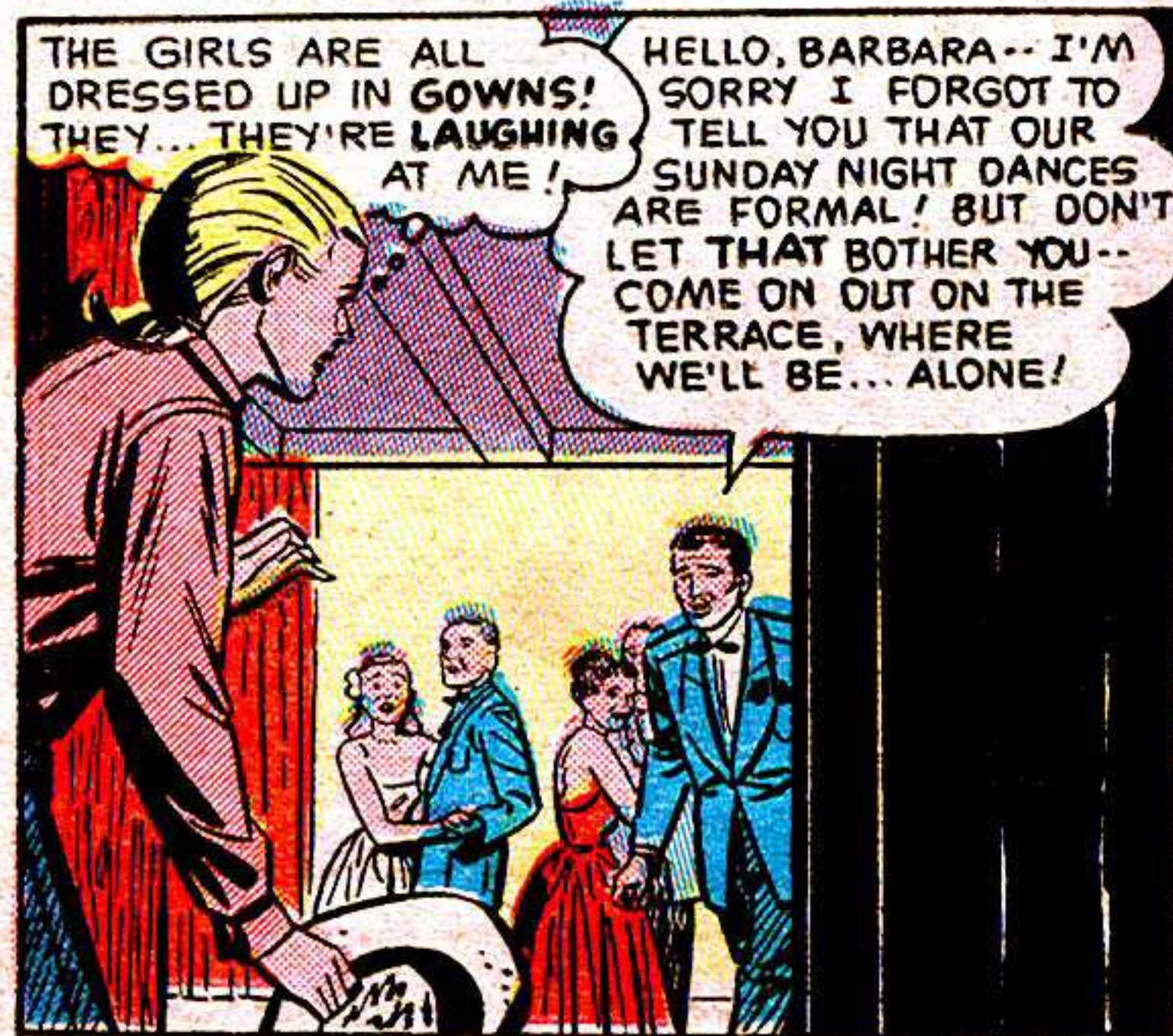
NO, BUT I'M AMAZED THAT YOU'RE NOT-- THAT YOU CAN COME UP SMILING AFTER AN EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD HAVE SENT OTHER WOMEN INTO HYSTERICS! YOU SURE ARE UNUSUAL-- AND LOVELY!



I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE LIKE YOU-- AND I'D LIKE TO! MY NAME IS GLENN TRAVIS-- AND I WONDER IF YOU'D DO ME THE HONOR OF COMING TO OUR SUNDAY NIGHT DANCE HERE, MISS... ER...

I'M BARBARA CONROY... AND I'D LOVE TO COME... GLENN!

"THIS WAS GOING TO BE IT-- MY FIRST REAL ROMANCE, WITH THE KIND OF MAN I'D ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT! BUT WHEN I SHOWED UP AT THE DUDE RANCH BALLROOM..."



THE GIRLS ARE ALL DRESSED UP IN GOWNS! THEY... THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME!

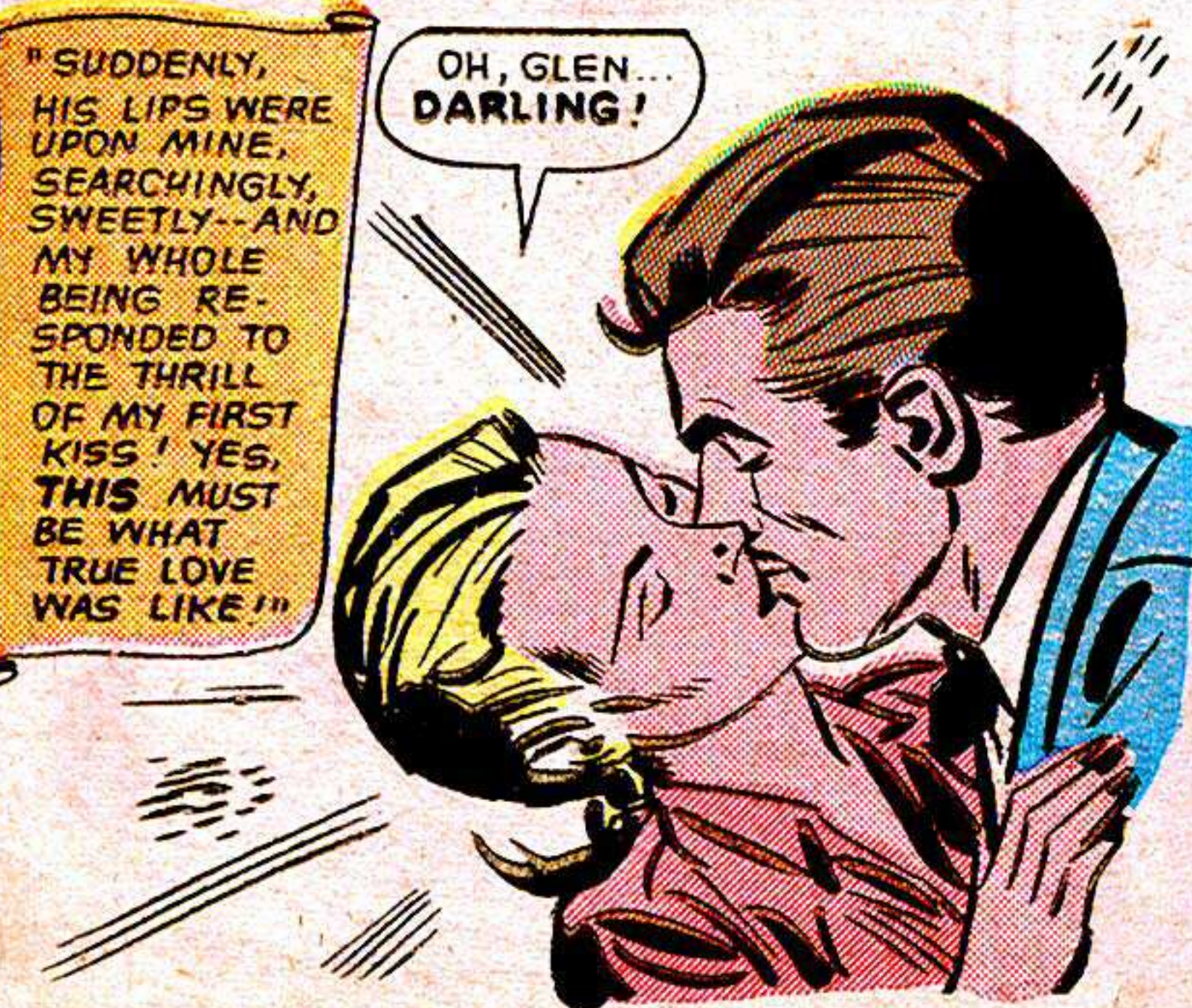
HELLO, BARBARA-- I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT OUR SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES ARE FORMAL! BUT DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU-- COME ON OUT ON THE TERRACE, WHERE WE'LL BE... ALONE!

"I FORGOT MY EMBARRASSMENT-- FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT THE HEAVENLY DELIGHT OF BEING IN GLENN'S ARMS, OF FEELING OUR HEARTS BEAT THRILLINGLY AS ONE..."



THIS IS THE WAY I'VE DREAMED OF DANCING WITH A MAN!

YOU'RE FASCINATINGLY DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER GIRLS I'VE EVER KNOWN, BOBBY! YOU-- DO THINGS TO ME!



"SUDDENLY, HIS LIPS WERE UPON MINE, SEARCHINGLY, SWEETLY-- AND MY WHOLE BEING RESPONDED TO THE THRILL OF MY FIRST KISS! YES, THIS MUST BE WHAT TRUE LOVE WAS LIKE!"

OH, GLENN... DARLING!



YOU'RE WONDERFUL! I'M BEGINNING TO REGRET THAT I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO BACK TO NEW YORK TOMORROW!

YOU'RE LEAVING? BUT... BUT YOU CAN'T! YOU COULDN'T HAVE KISSED ME LIKE THAT UNLESS YOU LOVED ME-- THE WAY I DO YOU! I-- I'VE GOT TO GO WITH YOU!

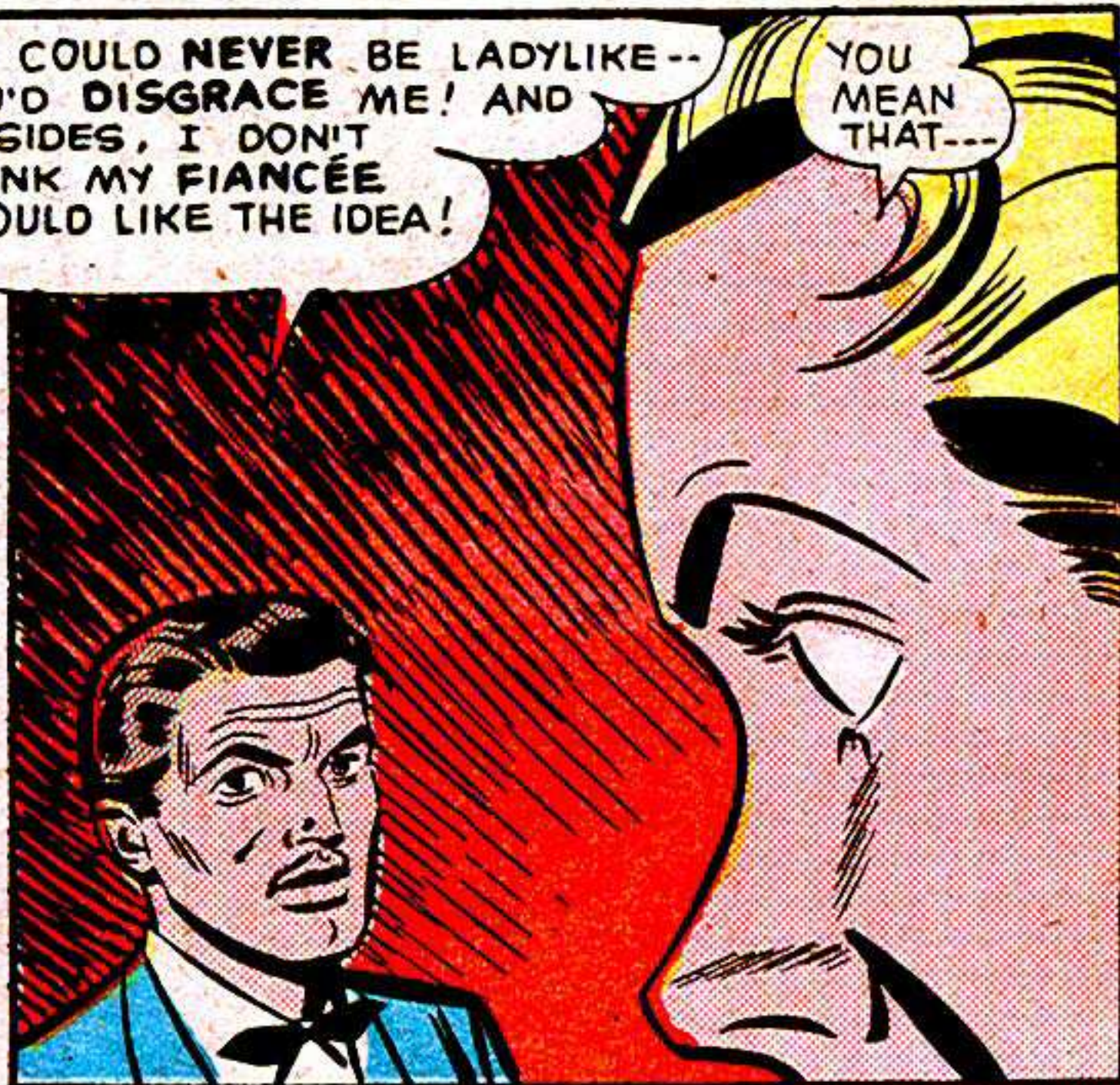


IMPOSSIBLE! YOU WOULDN'T FIT INTO MY KIND OF LIFE! REMEMBER, THERE AREN'T ANY WILD STEERS TO ROPE OR MUSTANGS TO BREAK! YOU BELONG HERE-- WHERE THE WEST IS STILL WILD AND UNTAMED-- LIKE YOU!

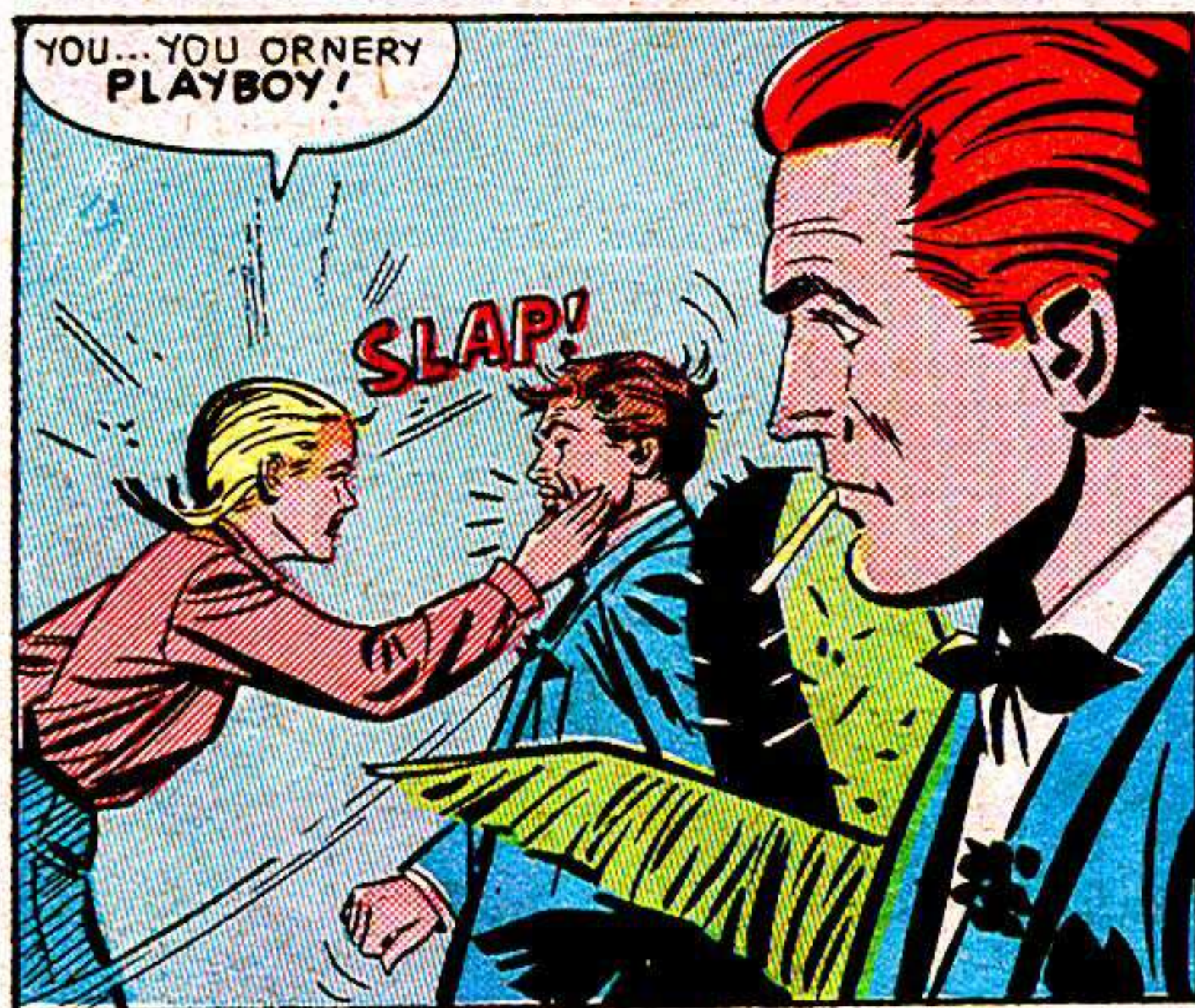
BUT I... I CAN LEARN TO BECOME A LADY! PLEASE--

YOU COULD NEVER BE LADYLIKE-- YOU'D DISGRACE ME! AND BESIDES, I DON'T THINK MY FIANCEE WOULD LIKE THE IDEA!

YOU MEAN THAT--



"HURT AND HUMILATED, I STRUCK BACK IN THE ONLY WAY I 'KNEW!"



YOU... YOU ORNERY PLAYBOY!

SLAP!

"EYES BLINDED WITH TEARS, I FLED BACK TO MY HOME!"

HE ONLY THOUGHT OF ME AS A WILD, ROUGH COWGIRL! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THE KIND OF MAN I WANT TO ATTRACT WOULD ONLY GO FOR A GIRL WHO'S SWEET, SOFT! IF MY CHANCE EVER COMES AGAIN, I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE-- I'LL CONCEAL WHAT I REALLY AM!



"BY MORNING, I FELT AS IF THE LAST BITTER TEAR HAD BEEN WRUNG FROM MY HEART-- AND I WAS ABLE TO DRAG MYSELF WRETCHEDLY OUTSIDE..."

HEY, BOBBY-- ONE O' THE BOYS SPOTTED A BAND O' WILD BRONCS OUT NEAR THE GULCH-- AND WE'LL NEED YUH TO HELP CATCH AND TAME 'EM! C'MON!

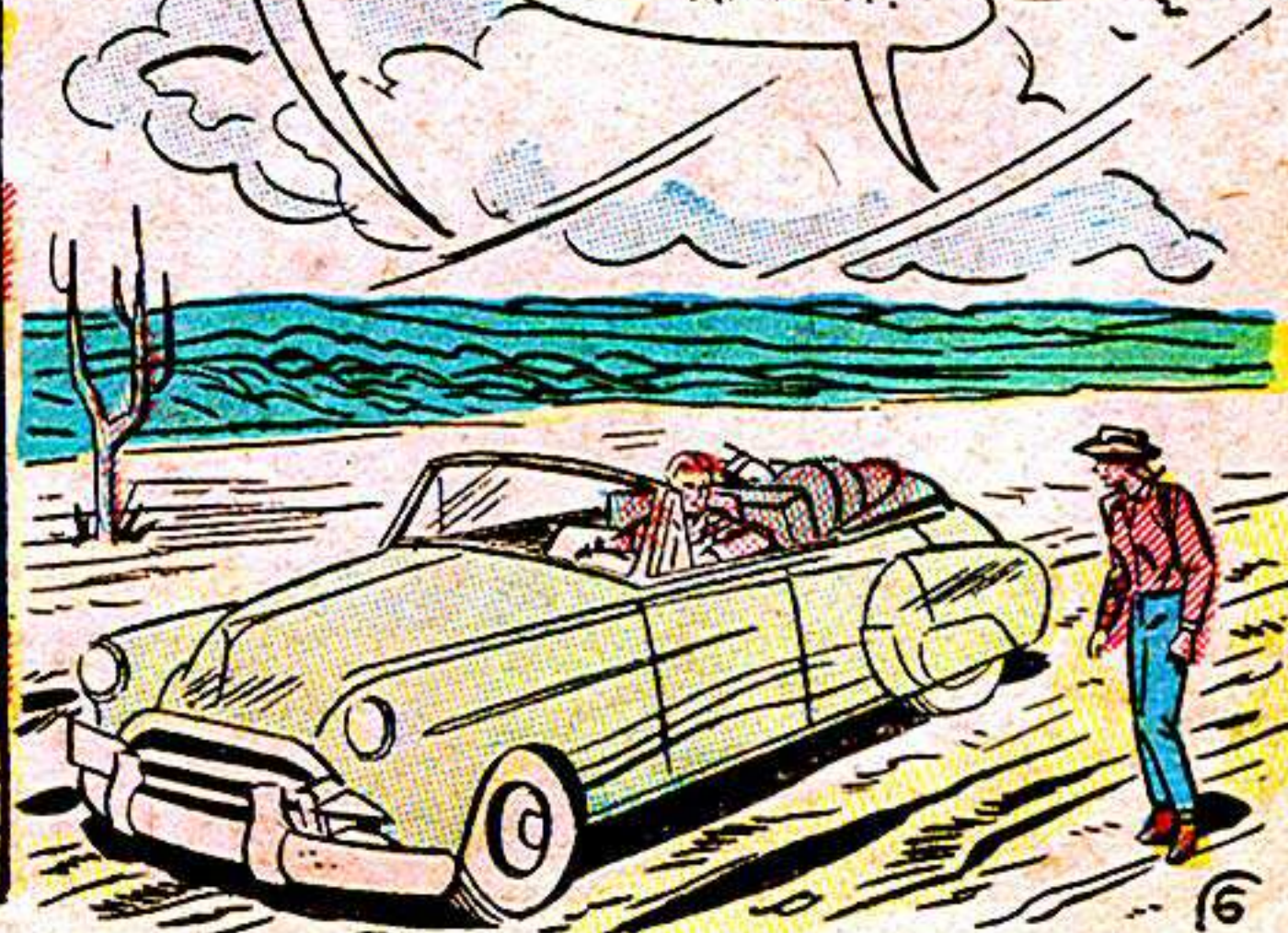
SORRY, TEX! MY BRONC-BUSTING DAYS ARE OVER-- FOR GOOD!



"THEN, OUT ON THE LONELY RANGE THAT MATCHED THE LONELINESS WITHIN ME..."

HELLO, THERE-- IS THIS THE ROAD TO THE REGAL DUDE RANCH?

NO, THIS ROAD LEADS TO MY FATHER'S CATTLE RANCH-- YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BACK ABOUT A MILE AND TURN TO THE LEFT TO HIT THE DUDE RANCH!

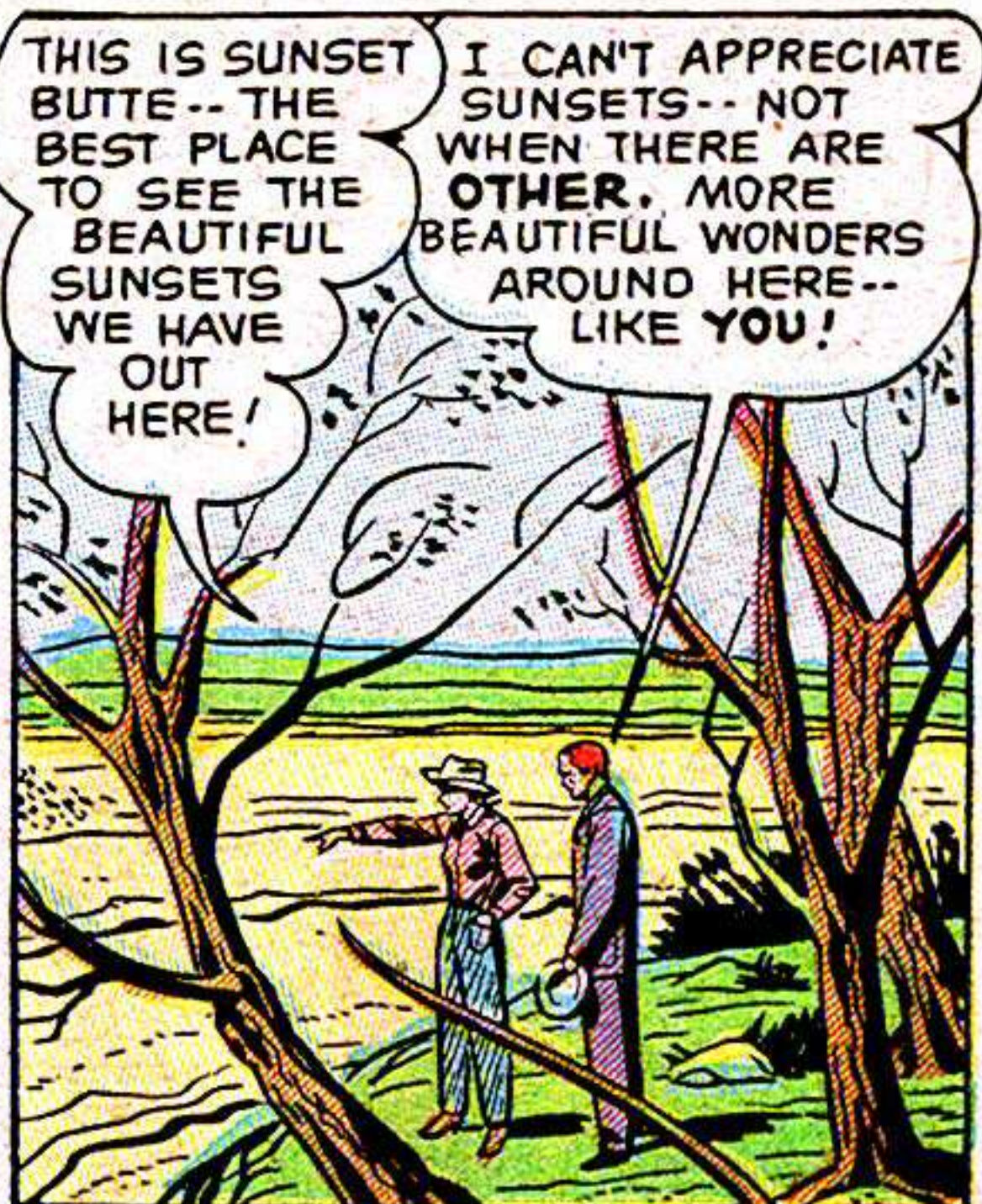




I WON'T UNLESS I HAVE TO-- ACTUALLY I PREFER A QUIETER SPOT! I'M GARY ROCKWELL! THINK YOU COULD PUT UP A GUEST AT YOUR RANCH FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS?

GOLLY, HE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY BOY--THERE'S SOMETHING SORT OF-- GENTLE AND STRONG ABOUT HIM! WHY SHOULDN'T WE TAKE A GUEST?

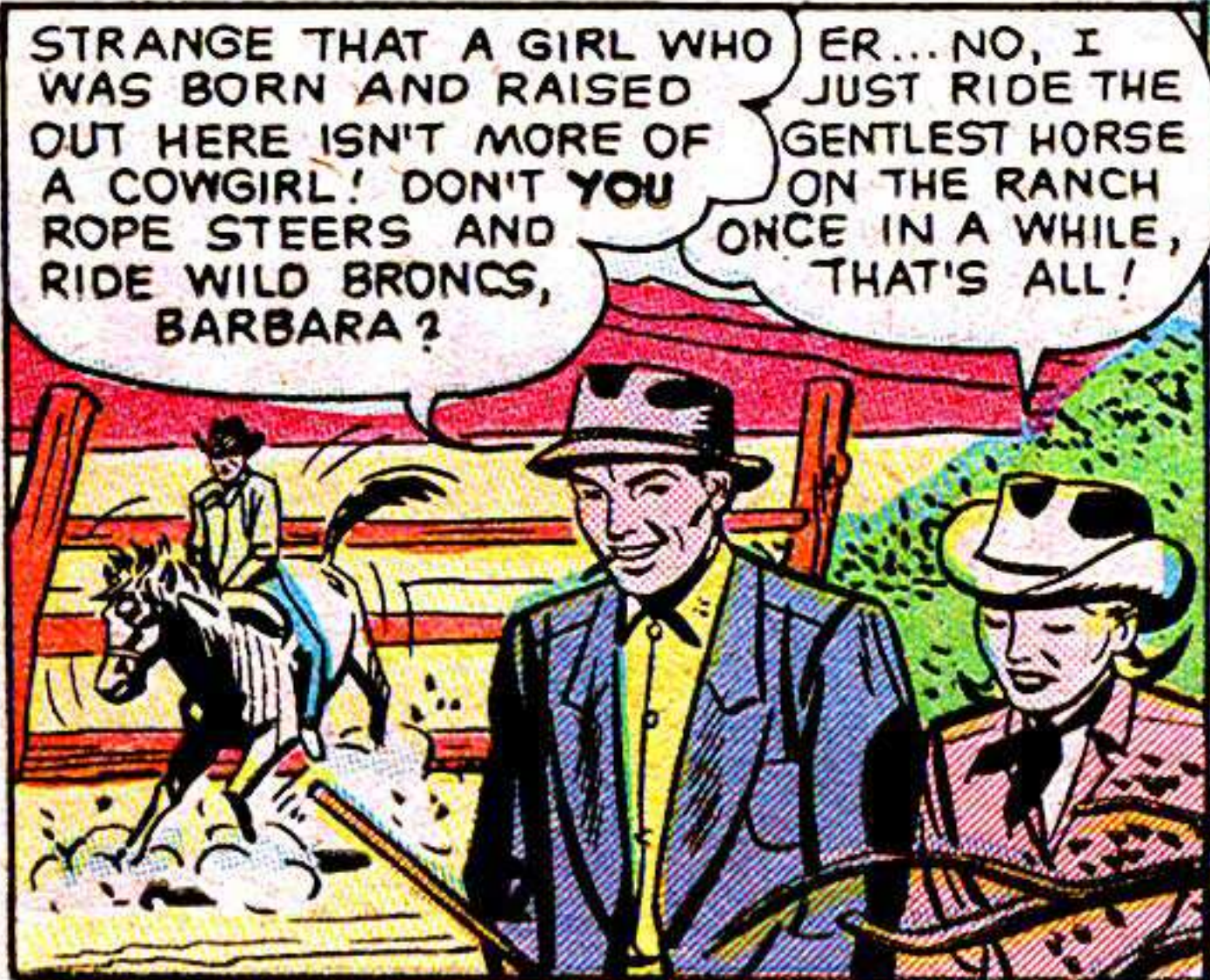
"AND SO GARY ENTERED MY LIFE--BRINGING WITH HIM A GAY TENDERNESS I FOUND IRRESISTIBLE! ALL MEMORIES OF GLENN FADED BEFORE HIS MAGNETIC CHARM "



THIS IS SUNSET BUTTE-- THE BEST PLACE TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS WE HAVE OUT HERE!

I CAN'T APPRECIATE SUNSETS-- NOT WHEN THERE ARE OTHER, MORE BEAUTIFUL WONDERS AROUND HERE-- LIKE YOU!

"YES, I HAD FOUND HIM-- AND MY THROBBING HEART WARNED ME AGAINST LOSING HIM! I FELT I HAD A CHANCE-- BUT ONLY IF I KEPT MY TRUE, TOMBOYISH SELF WELL HIDDEN!"



STRANGE THAT A GIRL WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED OUT HERE ISN'T MORE OF A COWGIRL! DON'T YOU ROPE STEERS AND RIDE WILD BRONCS, BARBARA?

ER... NO, I JUST RIDE THE GENTLEST HORSE ON THE RANCH ONCE IN A WHILE, THAT'S ALL!

"BUT THERE WAS ONE ANGRY FLY IN THE SWEET OINTMENT OF MY ROMANCE-- TEX!"

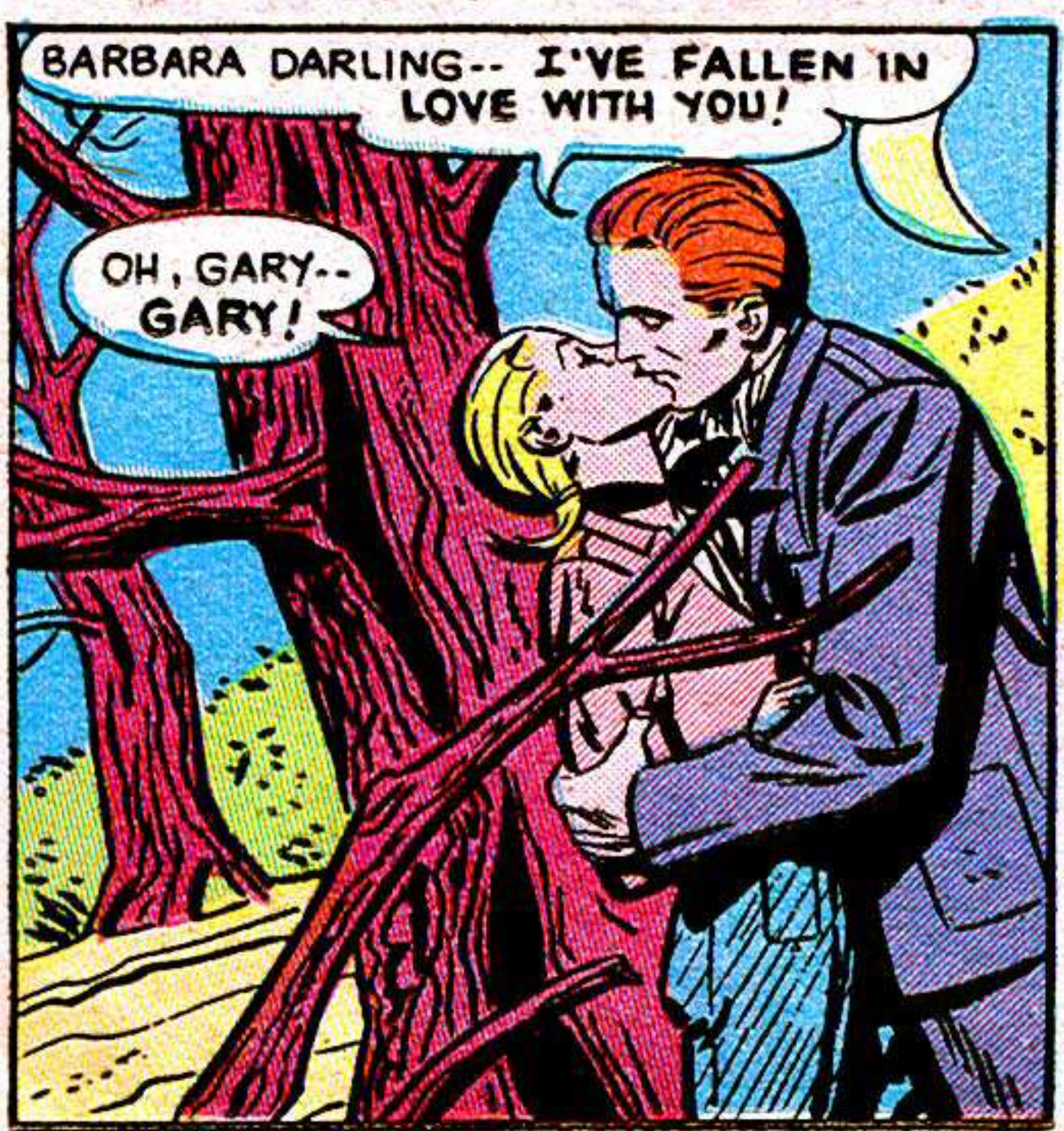
I HEARD THE LINE O' TALK YUH'VE BEEN HANDIN' THAT DUDE, BOBBY-- AND I DON'T LIKE IT! WHY SWEETEN UP TO A PHONEY LIKE HIM AN' TURN ME DOWN? SUPPOSE I TELL HIM YUH'RE THE BEST GAL BRONC-BUSTER AN' BULL-RIDER IN THE WEST?

TEX HARRIS, IF YOU SO MUCH AS MENTION ONE WORD OF THAT TO HIM, I... I'LL GET DADDY TO FIRE YOU!



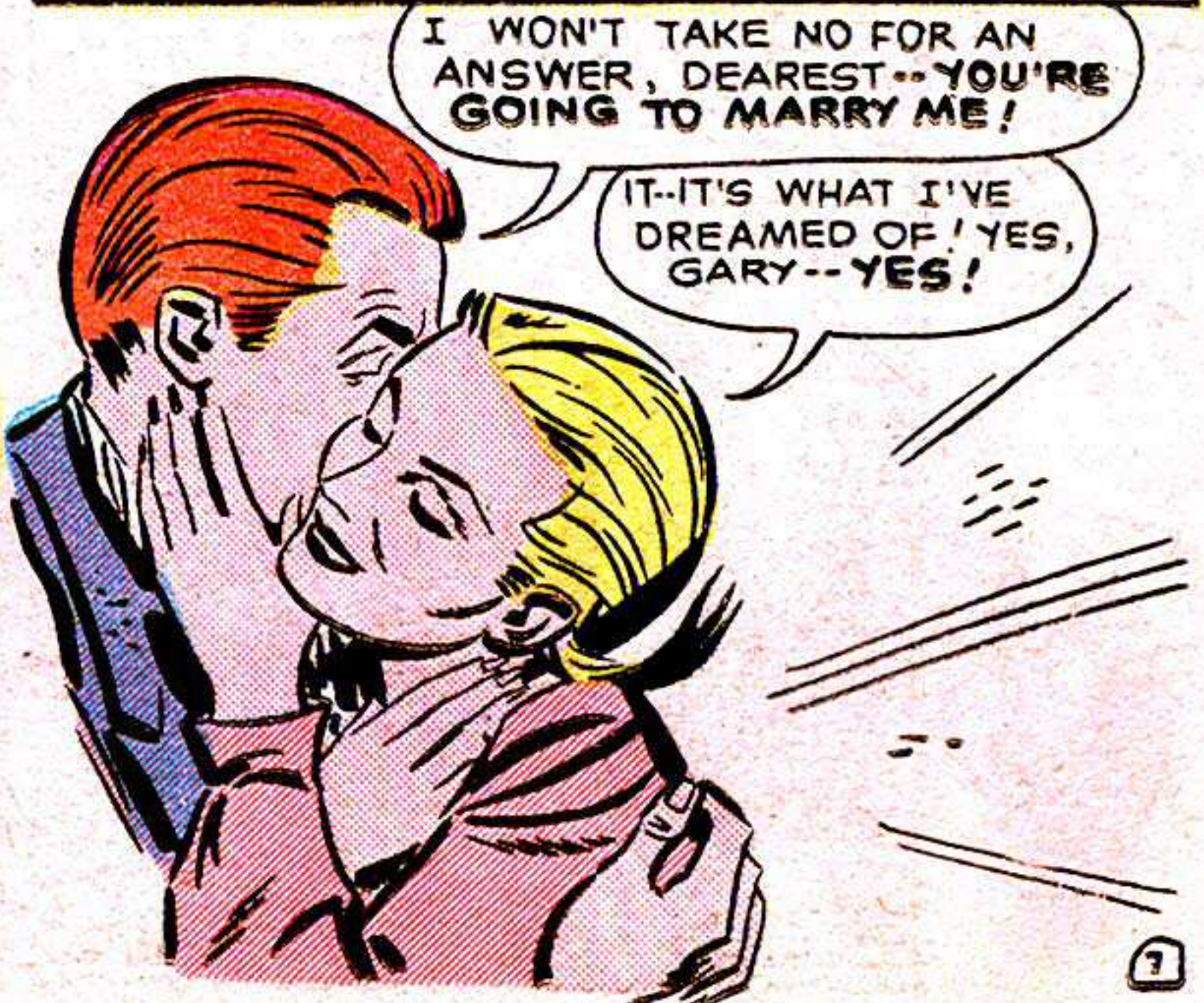
"MY THREAT SEEMED TO SILENCE TEX-- AND MY ROMANCE WITH GARY ROCKWELL BLOOMED-- UNTIL ONE NIGHT..."

"THIS WAS MY MAN-- I KNEW IT CLEARLY! HIS LIPS, HIS STRONG ARMS-- IT WAS ALL I HAD EVER DREAMED LOVE WOULD BE LIKE!"



BARBARA DARLING-- I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!

OH, GARY-- GARY!



I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, DEAREST--YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY ME!

IT-IT'S WHAT I'VE DREAMED OF! YES, GARY-- YES!

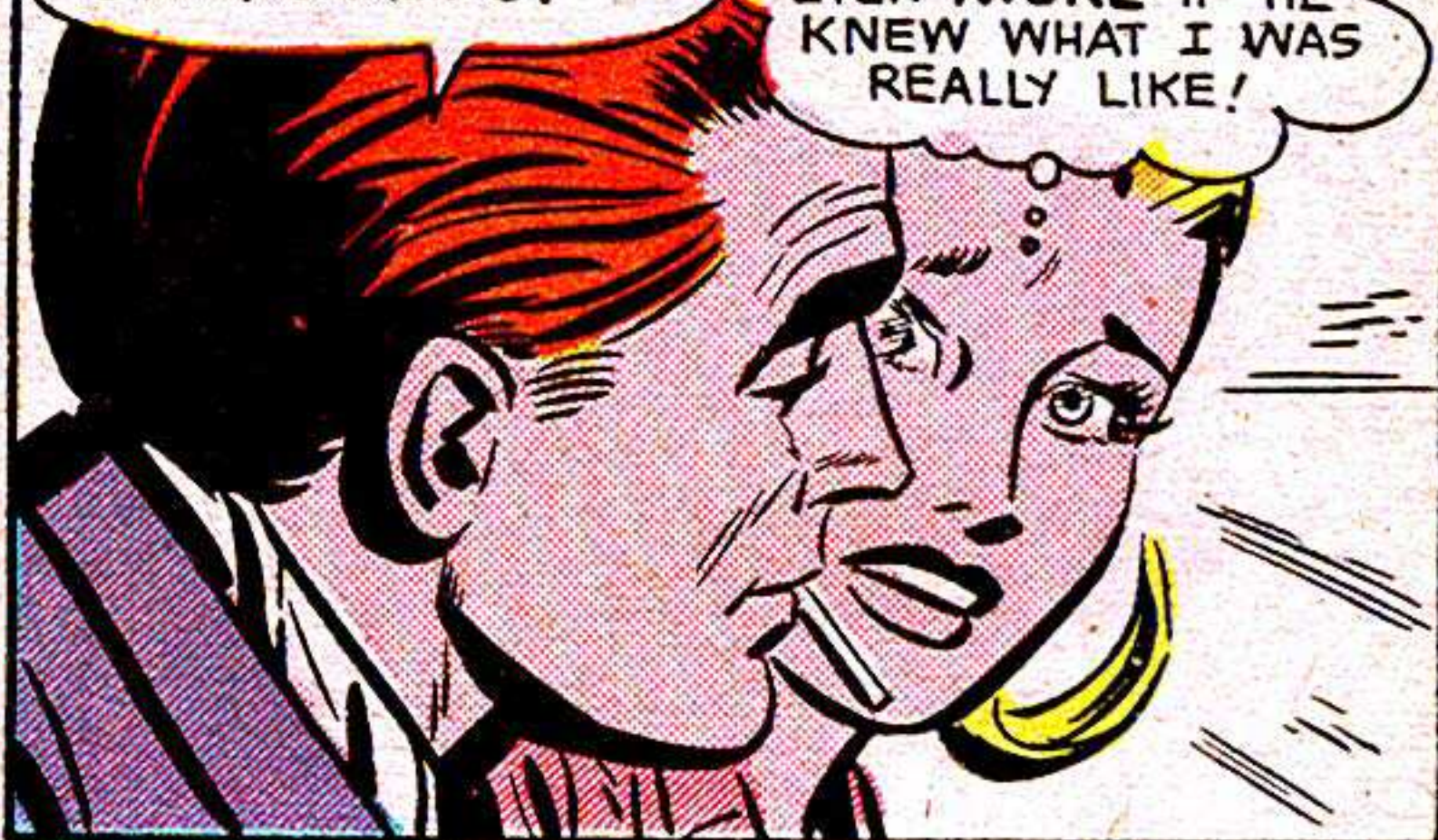
"THE HOURS SEEMED TO PASS LIKE MINUTES AS WE STOOD UNDER THE GOLDEN MOON, EXCHANGING KISSES, VOWS, ENDEARMENTS! THEN, WHEN IT WAS TIME TO RETURN TO THE RANCH..."

DARLING, I'VE GOT A **CONFESSION** TO MAKE! I TOLD YOU I CAME OUT WEST FOR A VACATION, BUT ACTUALLY I'M OUT HERE ON BUSINESS! I'M PUBLICITY MAN FOR A RODEO BACK EAST-- AND I WAS SENT TO SCOUT FOR NEW TALENT! BUT WHEN I SAW YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT BUSINESS-- AND COULD THINK OF NOTHING BUT MY LOVE FOR YOU!



BUT MY TIME LIMIT IS UP THIS WEEK! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO CHICAGO AND PRODUCE A NEW STAR FOR THE RODEO--OR BE FIRED! AND SINCE I'VE SPENT ALL MY TIME WITH YOU INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR NEW RODEO TALENT, I'M GOING TO BE OUT OF A JOB! AND UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS WE CAN'T GET MARRIED YET! TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT A POTENTIAL RODEO STAR, DARLING!

HE... HE'S NOT LIKE GLENN-- HE'D LOVE ME EVEN MORE IF HE KNEW WHAT I WAS REALLY LIKE!



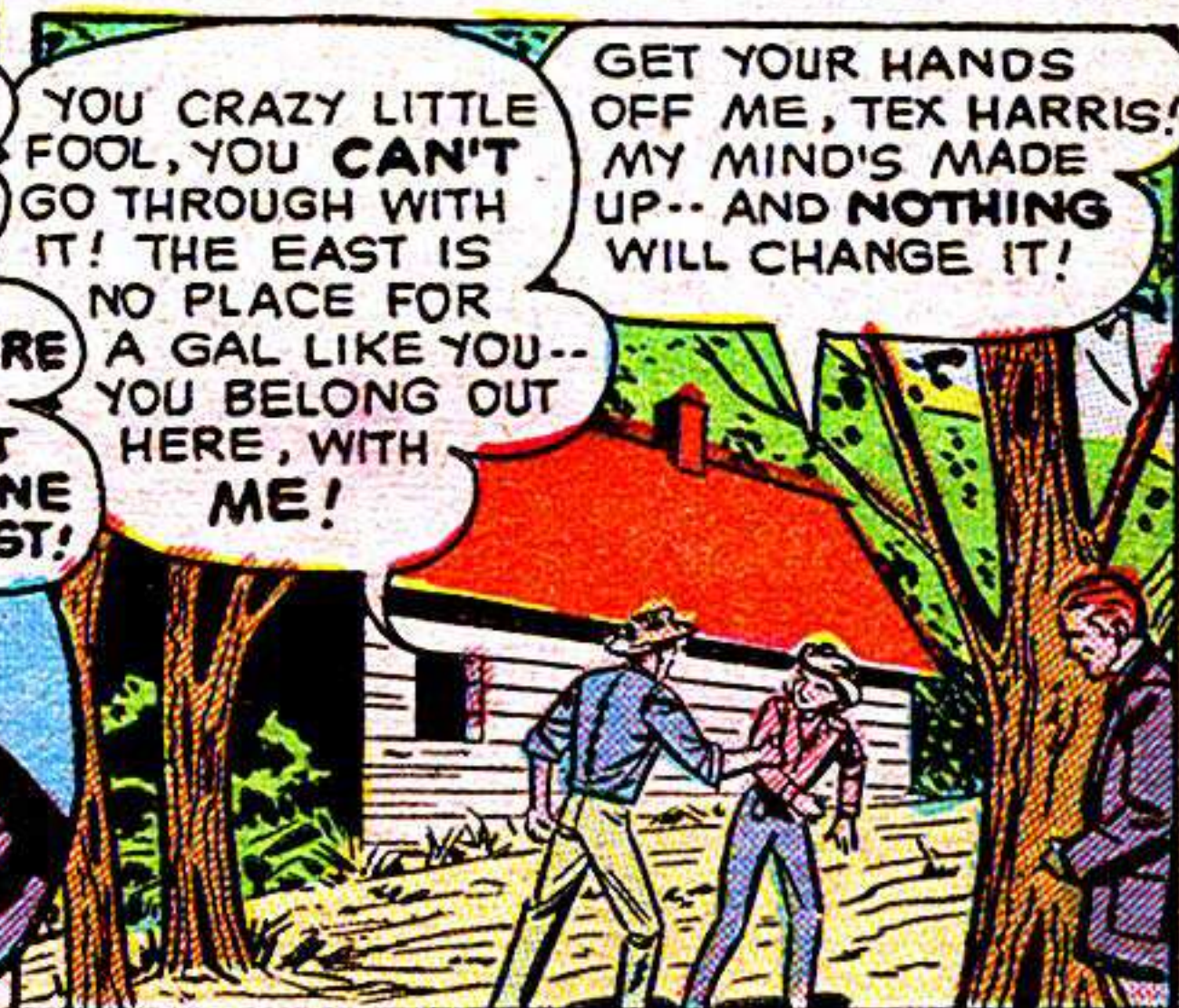
"HAPPY THAT I COULD THROW OFF ALL PRETENSE AND ONCE MORE BE MYSELF, I BLURTED OUT THE TRUTH!"

DARLING, I'VE GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE-- I AM A POTENTIAL RODEO STAR! I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU I COULD ROPE AND RIDE BETTER THAN ALMOST ANY MAN-- BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT KIND OF GIRL AS A WIFE! BUT NOW THAT I SEE YOU WANT ME THE WAY I REALLY AM, I CAN SAVE YOUR JOB-- BY BECOMING THE GREATEST ATTRACTION EVER TO HIT THE RODEO CIRCUITS!

COME ON-- WE'RE CATCHING THE NEXT PLANE EAST!

YOU CRAZY LITTLE FOOL, YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! THE EAST IS NO PLACE FOR A GAL LIKE YOU-- YOU BELONG OUT HERE, WITH ME!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, TEX HARRIS! MY MIND'S MADE UP-- AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE IT!



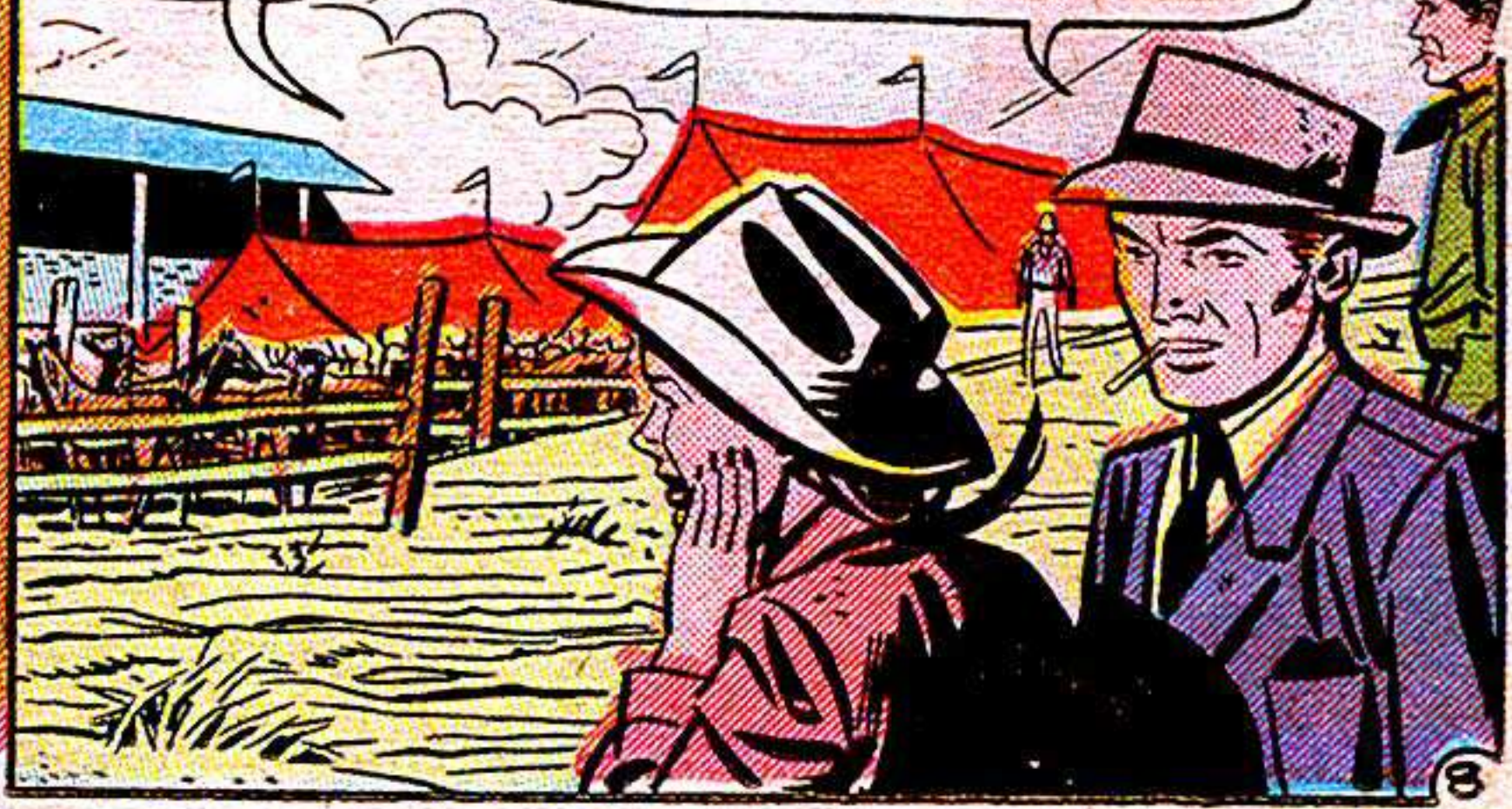
AN' NOTHIN' WILL EVER MAKE ME GIVE YOU UP! I'M COMIN' EAST WITH YOU-- I'LL JOIN THE RODEO JUST SO'S I'LL BE AROUND WHEN YOU FINALLY DO CHANGE YOUR MIND!

IF YOU'RE ANY GOOD, TEX, I'D BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU IN THE RODEO-- WE CAN ALWAYS USE A TOP-FLIGHT PERFORMER!

OH, GARY-- IS THIS IT? WHY, IT'S NOTHING BUT A CHEAP CARNIVAL RODEO!

WELL... ER... ALL THAT WILL BE CHANGED WHEN YOU START DRAWING THE CROWDS IN, SWEETHEART! THERE'S NEVER REALLY BEEN A GREAT GIRL RODEO STAR-- AND WHEN I START TURNING OUT PUBLICITY ABOUT YOU, THEY'LL COME IN DROVES!

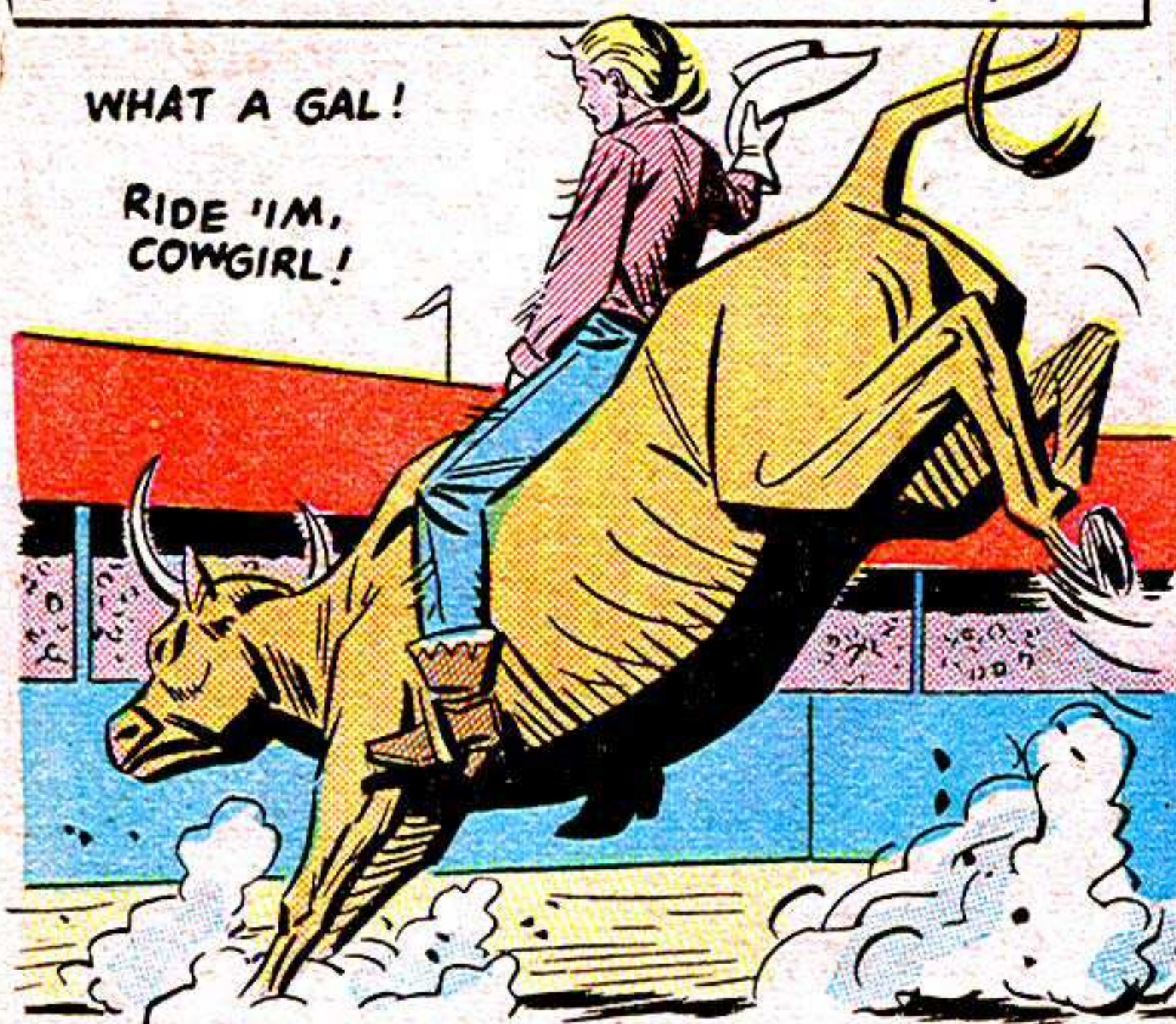
"IN MY MIND'S EYE, I HAD PICTURED GARY'S RODEO AS A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE EN-CAMPED IN THE CHICAGO STADIUM-- BUT THE REALITY WAS A RUDE AWAKENING..."



"GARY'S PREDICTION CAME TRUE AS THE CROWDS
POURED IN TO SEE ME! MONEY FLOODED INTO THE TILL,
BETTER BRONCS AND BULLS WERE BOUGHT-- AND
SOON WE WERE PLAYING TO CAPACITY THROGS!"

WHAT A GAL!

RIDE 'IM,
COWGIRL!



"THEN, AFTER MY PERFORMANCE ONE NIGHT..."

SWEETHEART, YOU'VE DONE IT! THANKS TO YOU,
WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A TERRIFIC GUARANTEE
TO APPEAR IN MADISON
SQUARE GARDEN --
NEW YORK!

OH, HOW
WONDERFUL,
GARY!



"HE MUST HAVE SEEN THE HURT IN MY EYES,
BECAUSE HE PARKED AND GATHERED ME IN
HIS ARMS! AND, BENEATH HIS LIPS..."

"NEW YORK,
FABLED CITY
OF ALL MY
DREAMS!
AND NOW
I HAD
MY MAN--
AND
NEW YORK!"

OH, GARY, THIS
IS WHAT I'VE
ALWAYS YEARNED
FOR! AND NOW
THAT WE'RE
REALLY
IN THE BIG-
TIME, LET'S
GET MARRIED
-- SOON!

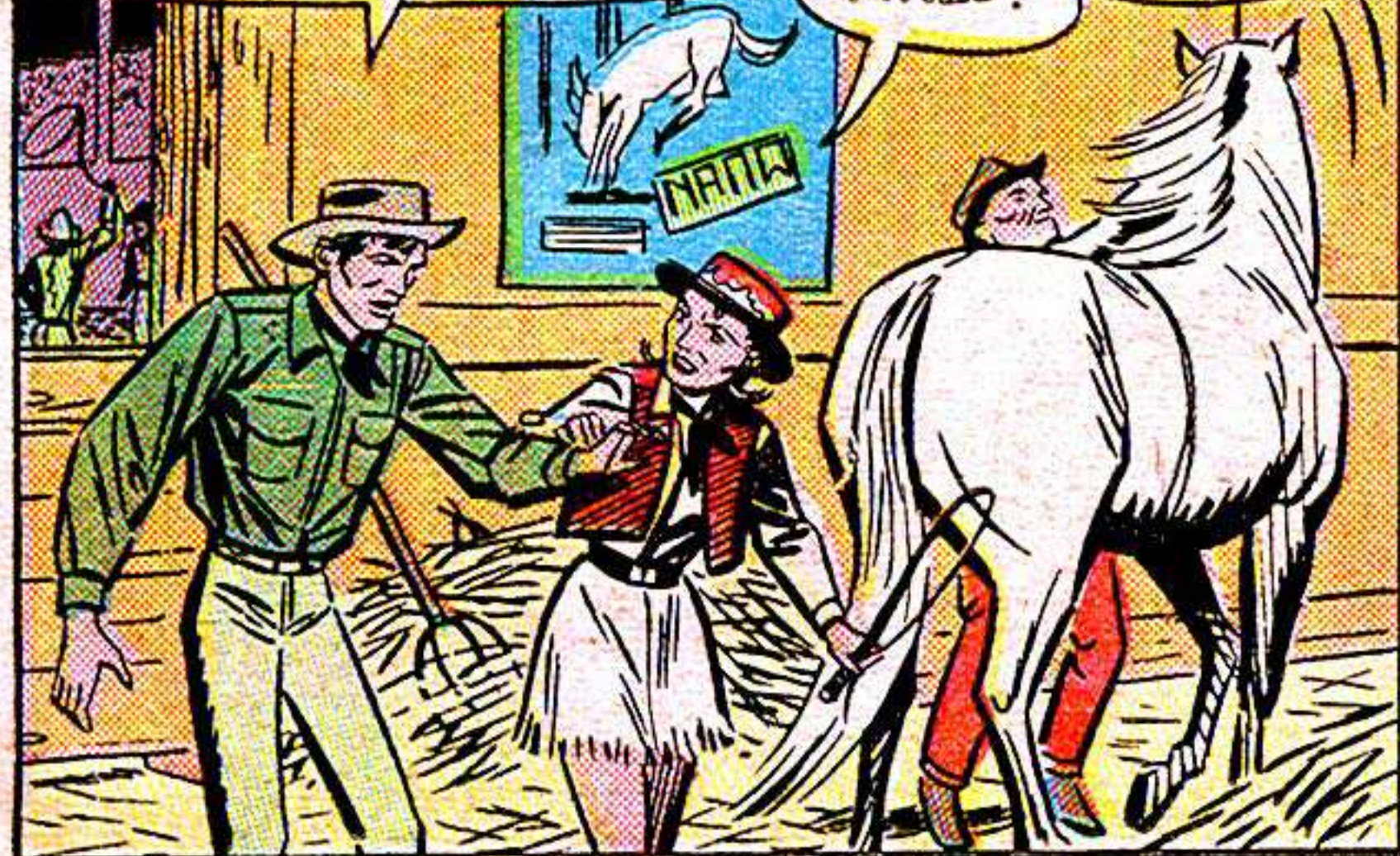
I'D LOVE TO, DARLING-- BUT
I'LL HAVE TO TURN OUT
MORE PUBLICITY THAN EVER
NOW THAT WE'RE AT THE
TOP-- IN ORDER TO KEEP
US THERE! I'M AFRAID
WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE
THE WEDDING -- UNTIL AFTER
THE RODEO SEASON!



"NEW YORKERS WENT WILD OVER ME AT MY OPENING NIGHT
PERFORMANCE! BUT WITH TEX-- IT WAS DIFFERENT!"

WHEN'RE YUH GONNA COME TO
YORE SENSES, GAL? ONE NIGHT
OF BREATHIN' THIS STALE, SMOKE-
FILLED AIR IS ENOUGH FOR ME!
C'MON BACK TO THE RANGELAND
WITH ME -- TO THE PLACE WHAR
WE BELONG-- TOGETHER!

I'LL NOT HAVE YOU
PESTERING ME AND
DESTROYING MY HOUR
OF TRIUMPH! I'M
GOING TO HUNT UP
GARY AND HAVE HIM
SEE THAT YOU'RE
FIRED!



"BUT WHEN I LOOKED FOR GARY..."

YES, GARY, WHEN I SAW THOSE PUBLI-
CITY STORIES ABOUT THE CONROY GIRL,
I REMEMBERED THAT YOU HAD BEEN
AT THE REGAL DUDE RANCH WHEN I
WAS THERE-- AND I WAS WONDERING
HOW THE DEUCE YOU TALKED HER INTO
JOINING THE RODEO!

OHH-- THAT'S GLENN TRAVIS'S
VOICE!

IT WAS
EASY,
GLENN!



SHE HAD NEVER SEEN ME AT THE DUDE RANCH-- I GUESS SHE HAD EYES ONLY FOR YOU! BUT WHEN I SAW THAT PERFORMANCE SHE PUT ON, I KNEW SHE'D BE THE ONE TO PULL MY RODEO INTO THE BIG TIME! I EAVESDROPPED AT THE LITTLE TETE-A-TETE WHERE SHE SLAPPED YOU AND SWORE SHE'D NEVER BE A COWGIRL AGAIN! BUT I KNEW A SWEET LINE OF LOVE TALK WOULD MAKE HER CHANGE HER MIND-- FOR ME! AND AS YOU CAN SEE, IT WORKED!

"THE LOVE I HAD THOUGHT I FELT FOR GARY CURDLED INSTANTLY INTO A FURIOUS HATRED AND CONTEMPT! FOR NOW THAT I SAW HOW FALSE HE HAD BEEN, I KNEW THAT I HAD BEEN MERELY BLINDED WITH INFATUATION-- JUST AS WITH GLENN!"

BOBBY! DID... DID YOU HEAR?

YES, YOU POISON-TONGUED RATTLE-SNAKE-- I HEARD! AND NOW I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU--

LET ME HANDLE THIS, GAL! I CAME HERE TO QUIT BEFORE I WAS FIRED-- BUT NOW THAT I HEARD WHAT HE DID, I'M ALL-FIRED MAD!



DON'T... DON'T HIT ME! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS--

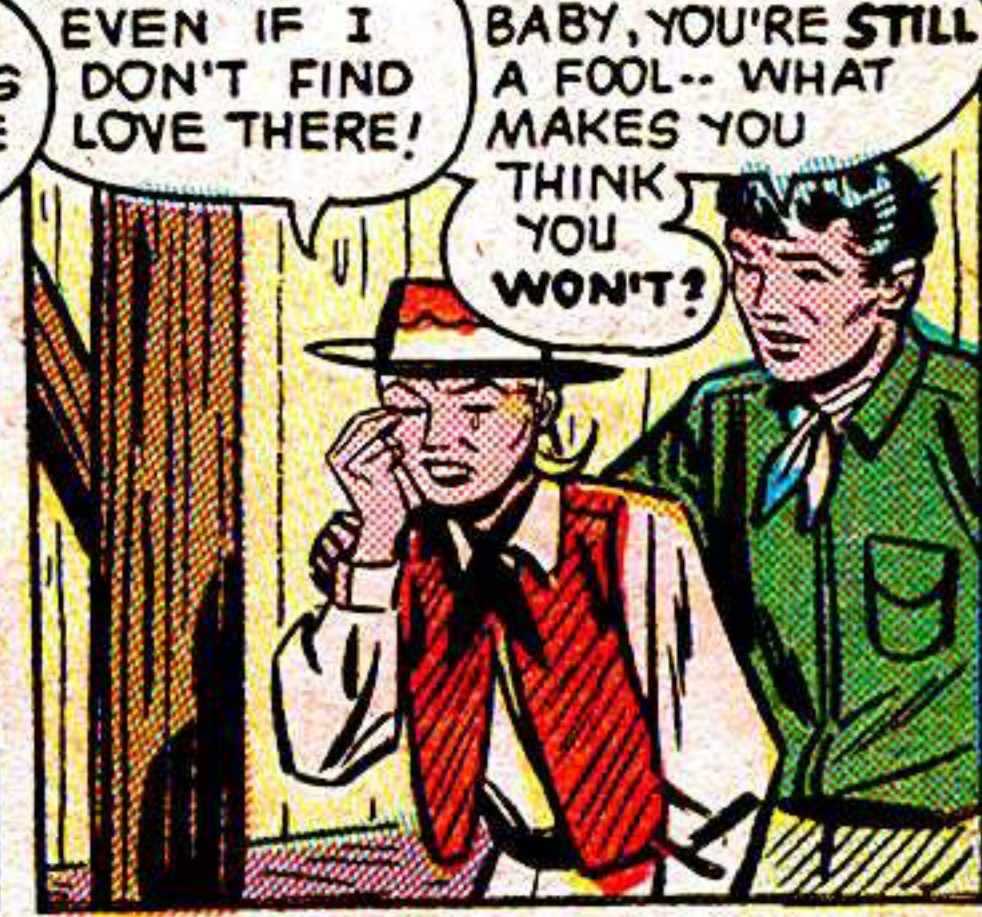
THERE'S YORE TWO MEN, BOBBY-- IF YUH CAN CALL 'EM THAT! NOW DO YUH REALIZE THEIR KIND ISN'T YORE KIND?

I...I'VE BEEN A FOOL, TEX-- AND YOU WERE RIGHT ALL THE TIME! ALL THIS PHONINESS-- PHONEY MEN-- PHONEY WILD-WEST-- I'M SICK OF IT! I...I WANT TO GO BACK HOME-- BACK TO MY KIND OF PEOPLE--

Y...YES, TEX-- COME ON! LET'S GET OUT WHERE THE AIR IS CLEAN!

EVEN IF I DON'T FIND LOVE THERE!

BABY, YOU'RE STILL A FOOL-- WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU WON'T?

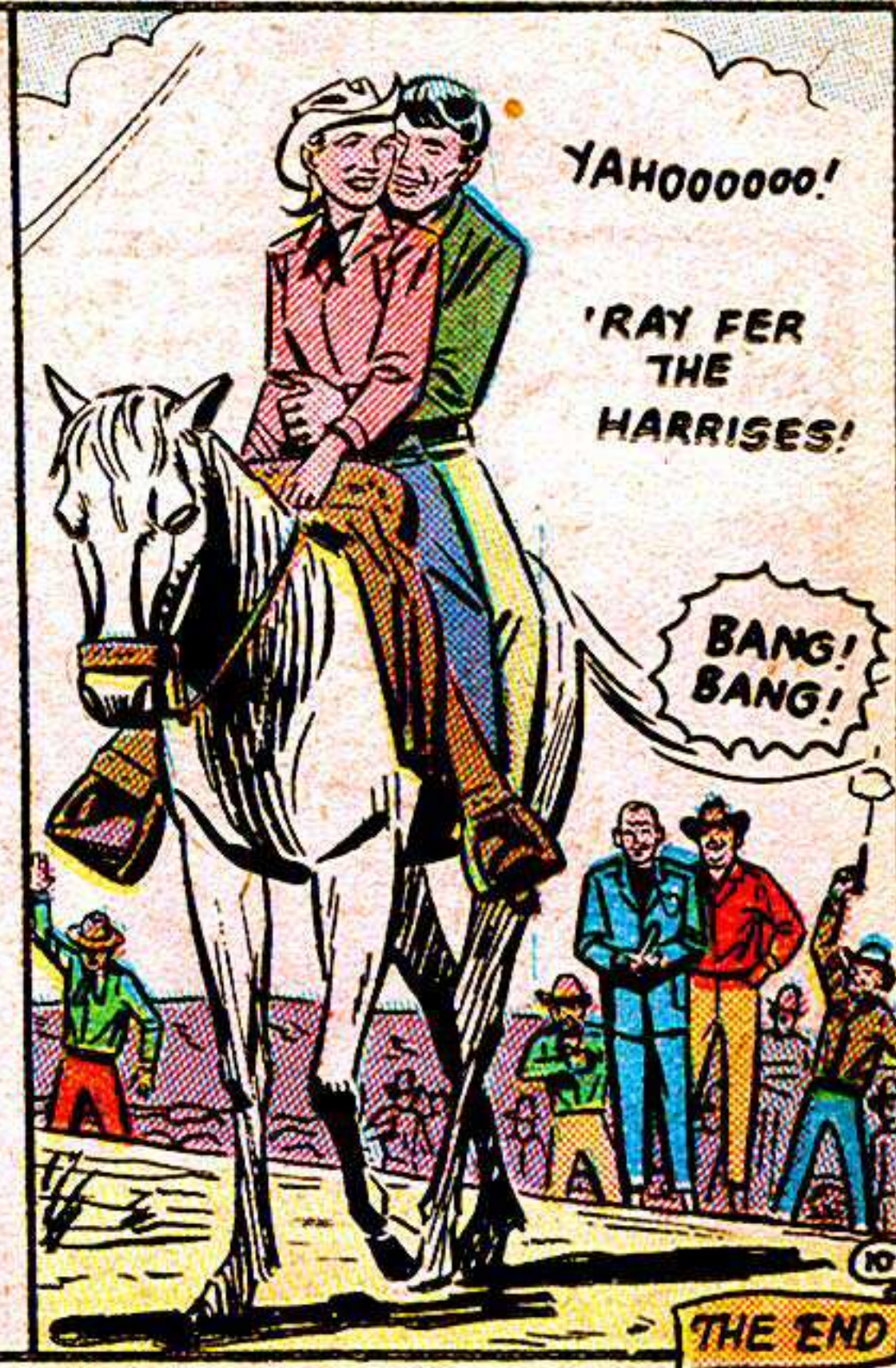


"BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, STRONG ARMS ENFOLDED ME! ARDENT LIPS SEARED MINE, AWAKENING MY HEART TO THE MEANING OF THE TRUE AND FAITHFUL LOVE TO WHICH I'D ALWAYS BLINDED MYSELF! MY HEART HAD COME HOME AT LAST-- HOME TO THE MAN I REALLY BELONGED WITH--FOR LIFE!"



OH, TEX-- MY LOVE!

"YES, IT'S A HAPPY ENDING-- THE ONLY POSSIBLE ENDING FOR A TRUE ROMANCE! BUT DID WE GET MARRIED IN NEW YORK? NOT ON YOUR LIFE-- WE WOULDN'T MISS OUT ON A REAL, OLD-FASHIONED, WILD-WEST WEDDING-- A BANG-UP BEGINNING FOR THE BLISSFUL HAPPINESS WHICH LAY AHEAD!"



YAHOOOOOO!

'RAY FER THE HARRISES!

BANG! BANG!

THE END

MOOCHERS NEVER MARRY

WHY, PETE, YOU'RE TWO HOURS EARLY FOR OUR DATE-- MY FOLKS AND I JUST STARTED DINNER!

MOOCHERS ARE ALWAYS POOR MATRIMONIAL MATERIAL--BECAUSE THEY TAKE ALL THEY CAN GET AND GIVE AS LITTLE AS THEY CAN IN RETURN--WHETHER IT BE IN LOVE OR MONEY! AND IF THE CURRENT FLAME OF YOUR LIFE HAS THE FOLLOWING MOOCHING HABITS, YOU'D BETTER DOUSE THAT FLAME FAST!

DINNER? WHY, I'D BE **GLAD** TO JOIN YOU!

ER... I FORGOT TO FILL UP THE TANK OF MY CAR-- AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ENOUGH TO GET US TO THE GAS STATION! WE'D BETTER USE YOUR DAD'S CAR!



NOW, LET'S SEE-- WHERE DID I PUT MY WALLET?

OH, NEVER MIND-- I'LL PAY THE CHECK-- **AS USUAL!**



SAY, HONEY-- I'M A LITTLE SHORT OF CASH THIS WEEK-- COULD YOU LET ME HAVE A TEN SPOT?

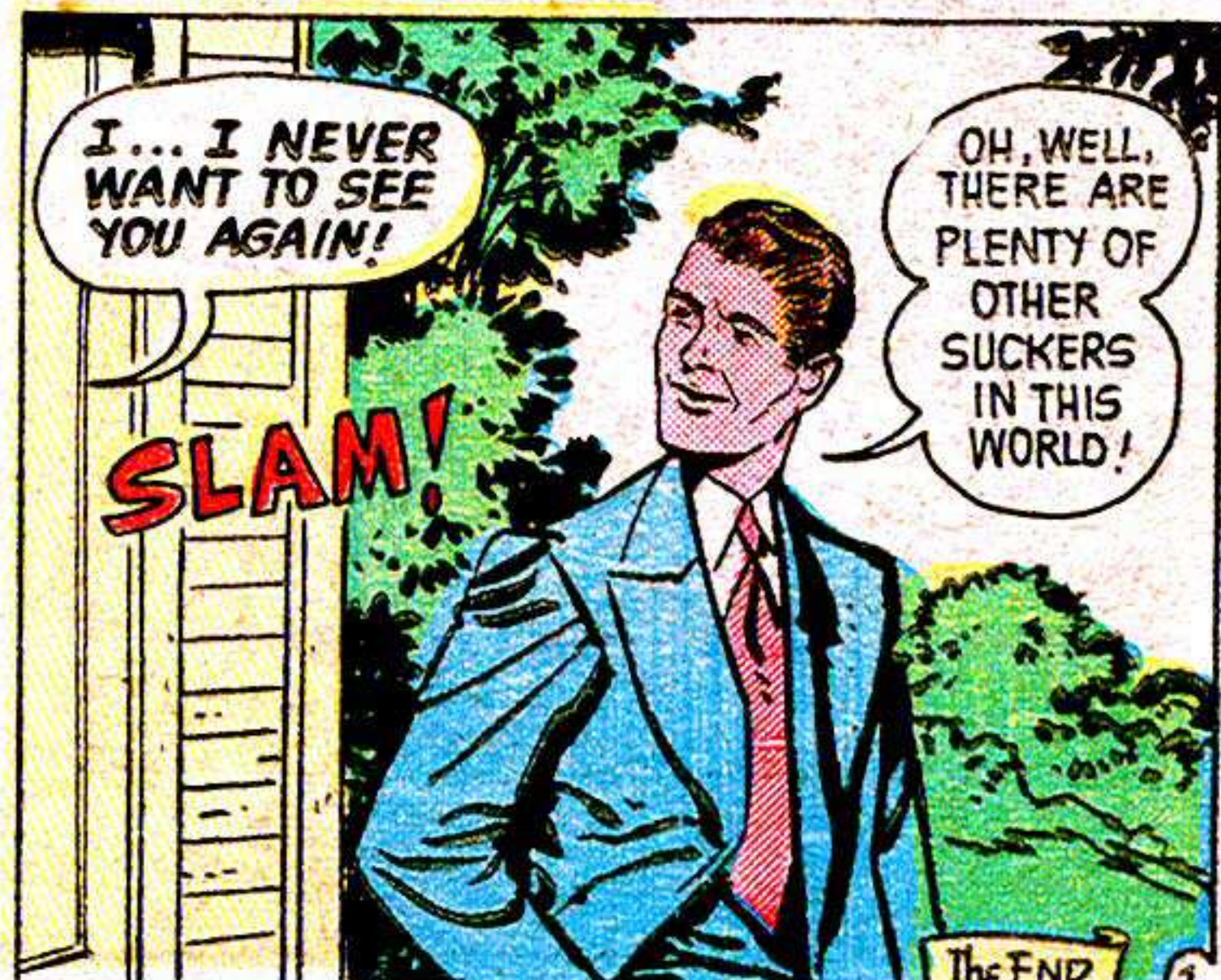
WHAT--- AGAIN?



BABY, YOU'RE GORGEOUS!

IN SPITE OF ALL THE TIMES HE'S KISSED ME, HE'S NEVER ONCE MENTIONED LOVE OR MARRIAGE!

AND HE NEVER WILL MENTION THOSE TOPICS-- BECAUSE MOOCHERS ARE TIGHTWADS WITH LOVE AS WELL AS MONEY! SO YOU'D BETTER WASH THAT PARASITE OUT OF YOUR HAIR-- BEFORE HE TAKES YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE GOT!



I... I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

OH, WELL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER SUCKERS IN THIS WORLD!

SLAM!

The END

SLEEP-WALKING SWEETHEART

SYLVIA HAD NEVER really believed in love at first sight...but the moment she set eyes on the bronzed, curly-haired, athletic young man with the classically handsome features that one saw on the ancient statues of the Greek gods, she knew that she had lost her heart.

It was her first day at the summer resort hotel in the Sierra Nevadas, and Sylvia had just wandered onto the tennis courts when she saw the man who looked like a reincarnation of the Greek god Apollo. He was surrounded by a bevy of eager, excited, lovely girls, each trying to get his attention...and Sylvia felt herself drawn to the crowd as a moth to a flame.

"Who...who is that man?" Sylvia asked one of the girls in the rear.

"Don't you know? Why, that's Perry Arkwright, the famous Australian tennis champion! Isn't he simply *divine*? I must get him to notice me!"

With sinking heart, Sylvia dropped back from the crowd. Every girl at the hotel was apparently infatuated with Perry Arkwright...but Sylvia just couldn't bring herself to join the others in deliberately, shamelessly playing up to him.

Morosely, she walked up to her third floor room in the hotel...but as she got to her door, she was surprised to see at least a dozen girls apparently waiting for her there.

"Are you the one who has this room?" one of the girls asked. "Would you mind changing rooms with me?"

"No, with *me*!" shouted a chorus of eager voices.

For a moment, Sylvia was dazed...but then she thought she knew what this was all about. "Don't be silly," she said airily. "Don't you think I know that Perry Arkwright was assigned the room next to mine?"

It was plain from their collective gasp of dismay that she had hit the mark. With new hope in her heart, Sylvia entered her room and slammed the door behind her. "Maybe *now* I'll be able to think of some way to attract his attention without cheapening myself," she mused. "But I...I'm too tired from that long trip up here to get any bright ideas...maybe my head will be clearer after a short nap..."

Two hours later, as Perry Arkwright entered his room, he was startled to see a feminine figure balanced precariously on his window ledge. Swiftly, his astonishment turned to anger as he suspected it was probably just another empty-headed female's stunt to attract his attention. He was sick of these shameless, cheap, man-hunting American girls...he would soon make an example of *this* one!

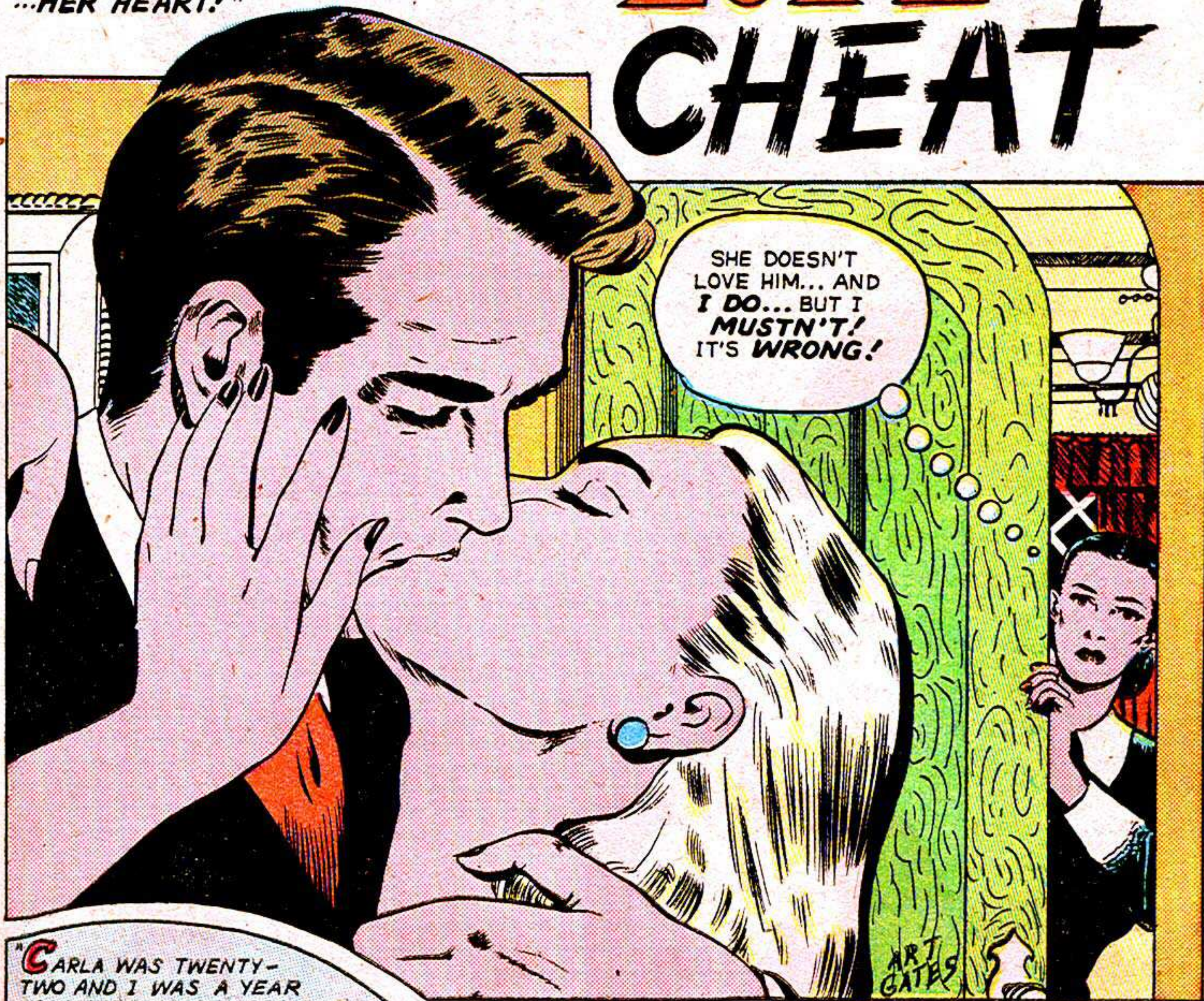
As he reached the window and saw the girl's closed eyes and outstretched arms, he was even more furious. "The fool," he muttered to himself, "thinking I'd be taken in by such an obviously phoney sleepwalking trick!"

But then Perry's eyes traveled down...and he gasped as he saw the narrow four-inch ledge she was standing on. Instantly, his arms shot out, caught her...and moments later, Sylvia awoke to find herself miraculously in Perry Arkwright's arms...in *his* room!

"Don't be frightened," his tender voice told her. "You were walking in your sleep...and I *know* it wasn't a fake, because you'd have most certainly fallen if you were aware of the danger! Psychologists say that sleepwalking reveals a person's deepest unconscious desires...and I...I only hope it was *love* that made you risk death to come to my window...because looking at you now, I...I'm beginning to believe in *love at first sight*, for the first time in my life!"

"MINE DID NOT START AS A LOVE STORY! NO, IT BEGAN AS A COLD, CALCULATED SCHEME...BUT ANYONE WHO **CHEATS IN LOVE** HAS A GOOD DEAL TO LOSE, INCLUDING ...**HER HEART!**"

LOVE CHEAT



"CARLA WAS TWENTY-TWO AND I WAS A YEAR YOUNGER WHEN WE LOST BOTH OUR PARENTS AND ALL THE SECURITY WE EVER KNEW! IT WAS SAD AND FRIGHTENING THE DAY WE SAW THE LAWYERS..."

I'M **STUNNED**, PRUE! I ALWAYS THOUGHT DADDY HAD **LOTS** OF MONEY...AND NOW...TO BE LEFT WITH A TOTAL INHERITANCE OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ...

WE'LL THINK OF **SOMETHING**, CARLA!



"WE HADN'T BEEN RAISED TO DO MUCH IN THE MONEY-EARNING WORLD, YOU SEE! WE'D BEEN SENT TO GOOD SCHOOLS, DRESSED WELL... BUT AS FOR **WORKING... NEVER!**"

CARLA, LET'S INVEST SOME OF OUR INHERITANCE IN A COUPLE OF GOOD SECRETARIAL COURSES! THEN WE CAN GET **JOBS!**

NO, DEAR, I HAVE A MUCH **BETTER** PLAN! LET'S INVEST **ALL** OUR INHERITANCE IN...



"MY SISTER'S NEXT WORDS STRUCK A SUDDEN CHILL TO MY HEART!"

A MAN!

CARLA! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?



"ALL THE WAY HOME I CONTINUED TO PROTEST, BUT..."

IT'S NOT AT ALL SILLY! IT'S SIMPLE... WE INVEST OUR TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN **ONE OF US** AND USE THE MONEY FOR A BIG, GLAMOROUS BUILDUP... THEREBY ATTRACTING A **RICH HUSBAND!** THEN WE'RE **BOTH SET FOR LIFE!**



"I WAS HORRIFIED! OF ALL THE **SELFISH, DISHONEST IDEAS...**"

YOU **ARE** JOKING, CARLA? WHY... IT WOULD BE **MISREPRESENTATION... FRAUD!**

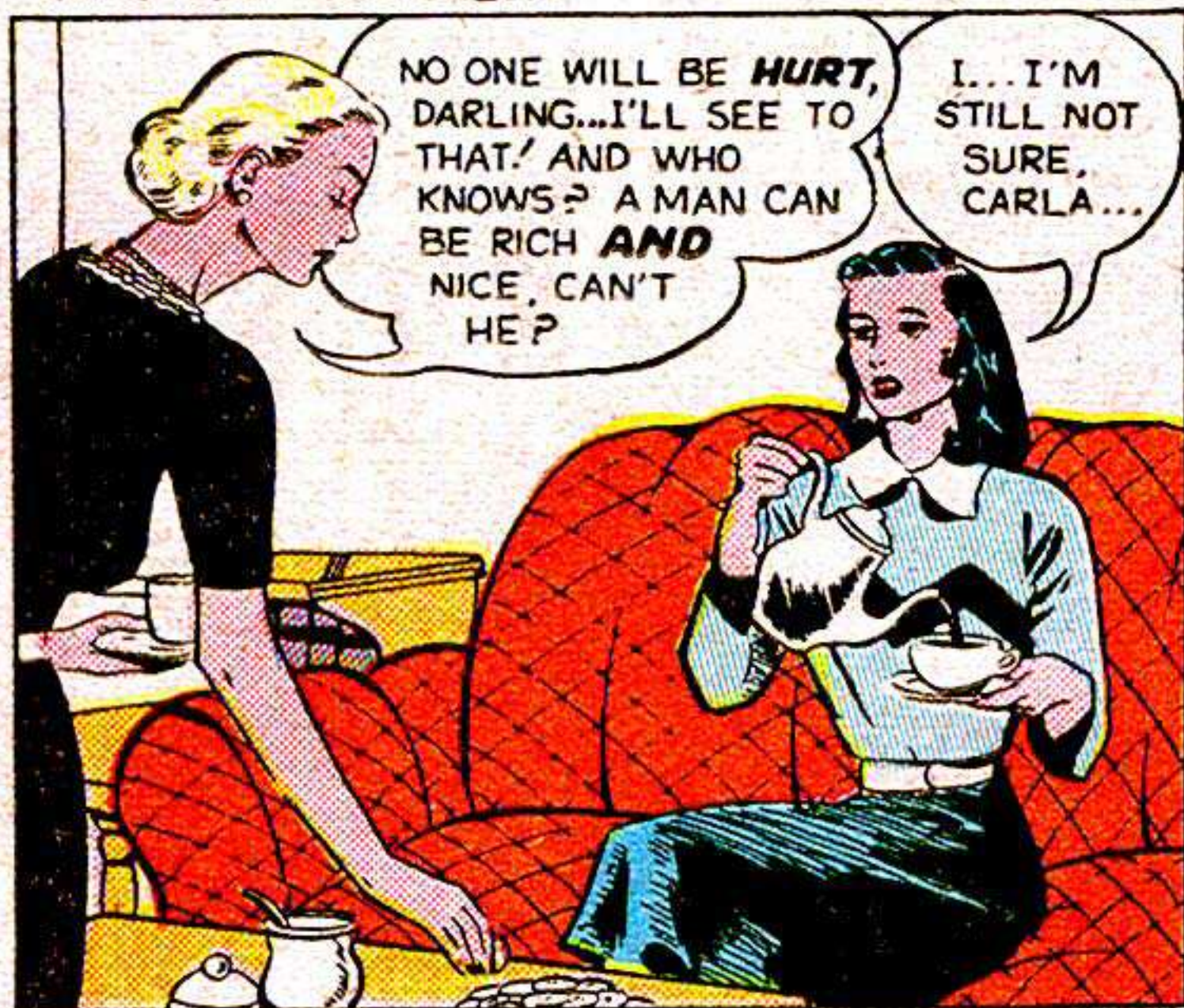
YOU'RE **SUCH** A BABY, PRUE! **EVERYONE** DOES IT IN A DIFFERENT WAY! GIRLS PRETEND TO BE SWEET OR INTERESTED IN A MAN'S WORK... ANYTHING TO HOLD HIM! THIS IS JUST **ANOTHER KIND OF PRE-TENSE!**



"CARLA HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO TALK ME AROUND TO HER POINT OF VIEW... SHE COULD MAKE ANYTHING SEEM LOGICAL..."

NO ONE WILL BE **HURT**, DARLING... I'LL SEE TO THAT! AND WHO KNOWS? A MAN CAN BE RICH **AND** NICE, CAN'T HE?

I... I'M STILL NOT SURE, CARLA...



"MY HESITATION WAS ENOUGH!" SHE OPENED HER PURSE, FISHED FOR A COIN, AND..."

IT'S DECIDED! NOW TO BE **FAIR**, LET'S TOSS A COIN TO SEE WHO GETS THE WARDROBE AND THE HUSBAND!

WAIT, CARLA, I...



"UNHEEDING, SHE TOSSED THE FATEFUL COIN INTO THE AIR!"

I SAY... **HEADS!**

THAT LEAVES ME JUST **ONE CHOICE!**



THE COIN SPUN TO THE FLOOR, TOTTERED, AND THEN LANDED...

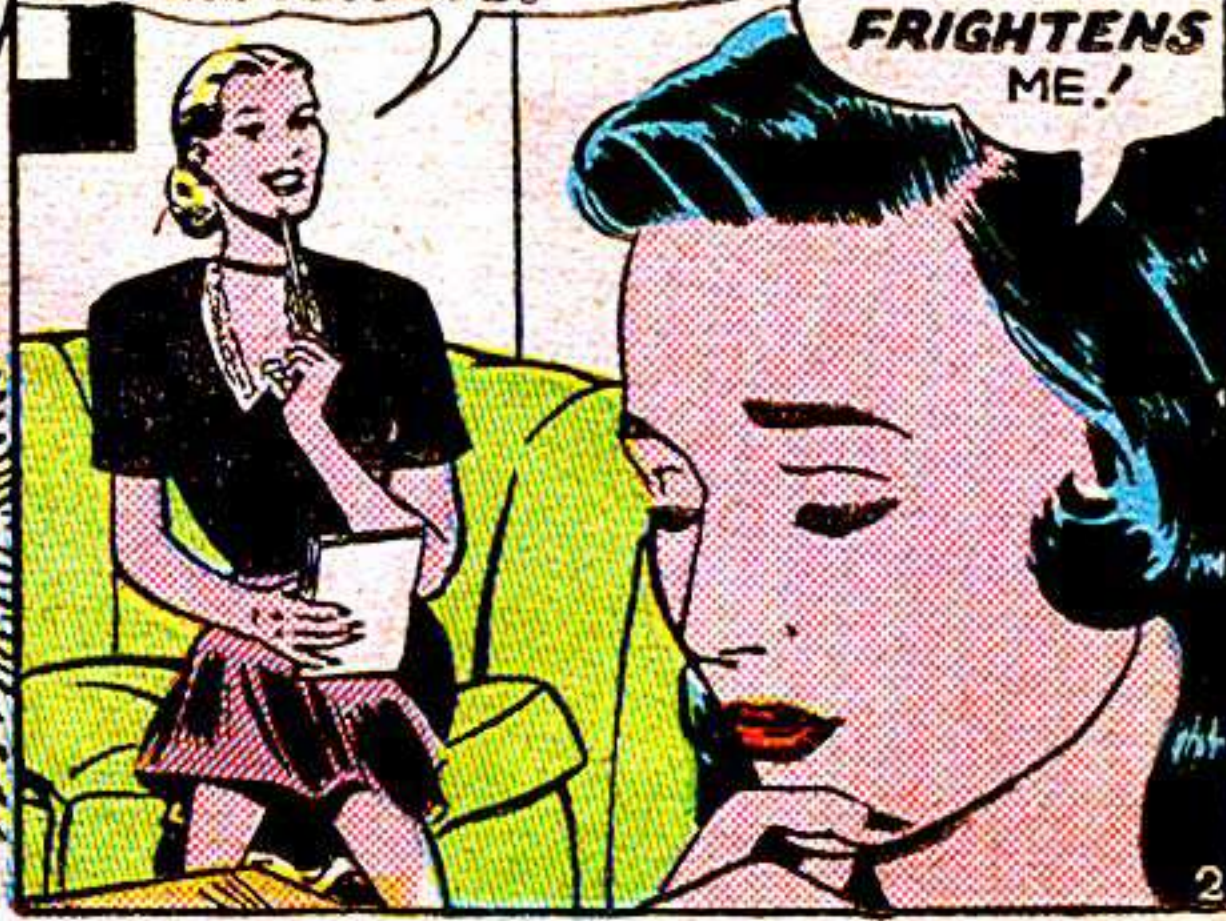
HEADS! IT'S MINE!



"CARLA WAS ELATED AS SHE WENT TO WORK, THINKING OUT HER MOVES IN THE GAME OF... **CATCHING A WEALTHY HUSBAND!**"

LET'S PLAN A REAL **CAMPAIGN**, PRUE! HOW MUCH FOR CLOTHES... WHERE TO GO TO FIND LIKELY PROSPECTS... **PRUE!** YOU'RE NOT **LISTENING!**

I'M SORRY, CARLA... I'M AFRAID THIS SCHEME OF YOURS **FRIGHTENS** ME!



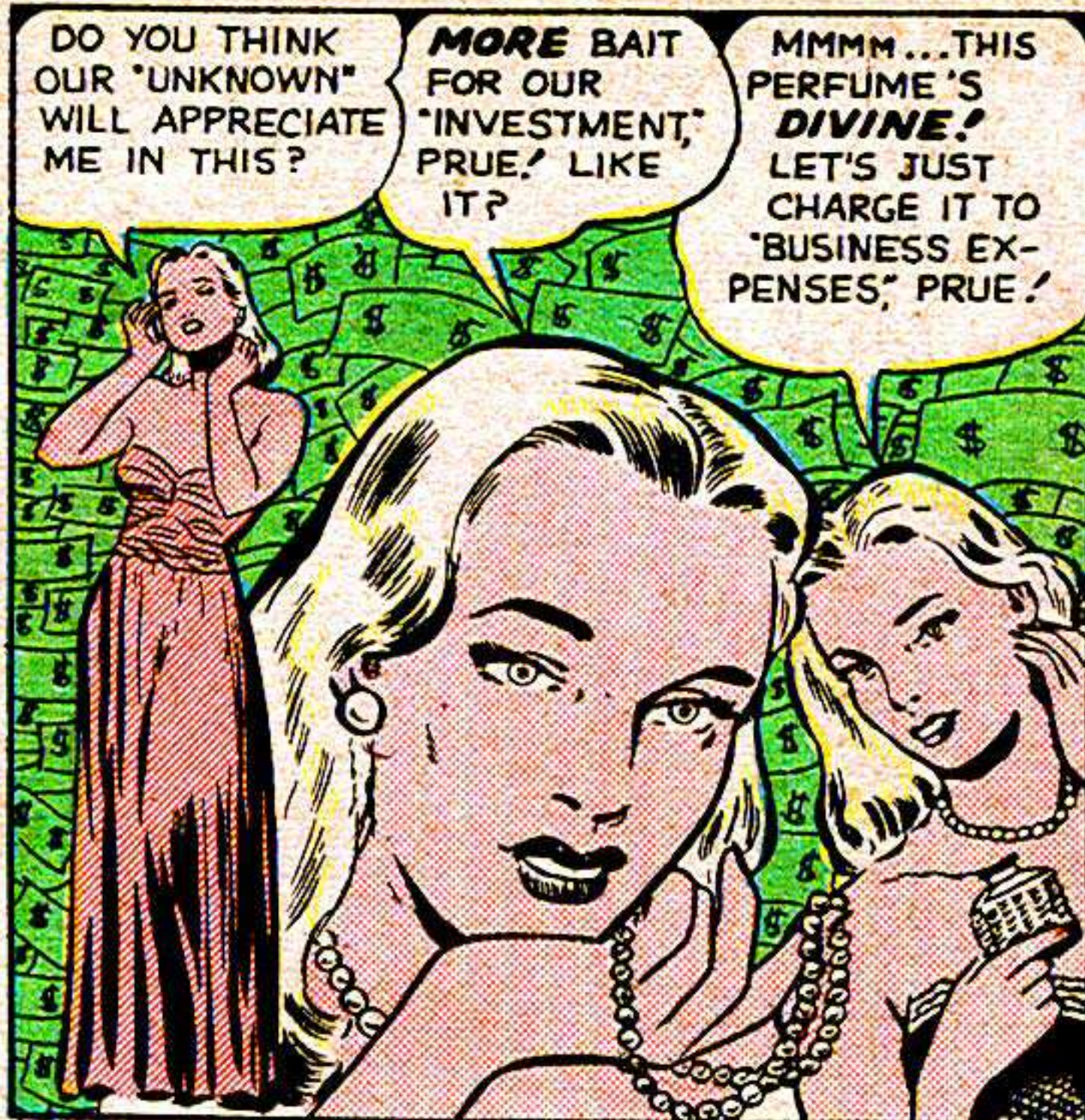
"CLOTHES... ACCESSORIES... HAIR STYLES... PERFUMES... CARLA WENT ABOUT ACQUIRING EVERYTHING SHE COULD GET AS FAST AS SHE COULD GET IT! AND ALWAYS, SHE REMINDED ME THAT SHE WAS ACTING IN MY BEHALF AS WELL AS HER OWN!"



DO YOU THINK OUR "UNKNOWN" WILL APPRECIATE ME IN THIS?

MORE BAIT FOR OUR "INVESTMENT," PRUE! LIKE IT?

MMM...THIS PERFUME'S **DIVINE!** LET'S JUST CHARGE IT TO "BUSINESS EXPENSES," PRUE!



"YES, MY LOVELY SISTER HAD EVERY MOVE OF HER CAMPAIGN... **OUR CAMPAIGN...MAPPED OUT...**"

AND **THESE**, DARLING, ARE A PAIR OF TICKETS TO...**ENGLAND!** MY SURVEY PROVES THERE ARE MORE MEN IN THE HIGHER INCOME BRACKETS AVAILABLE THERE! BESIDES, I DON'T SPEAK ANY OTHER LANGUAGE AND...



...BESIDES, I CAN ALWAYS POSE AS AN AMERICAN **HEIRESS!**

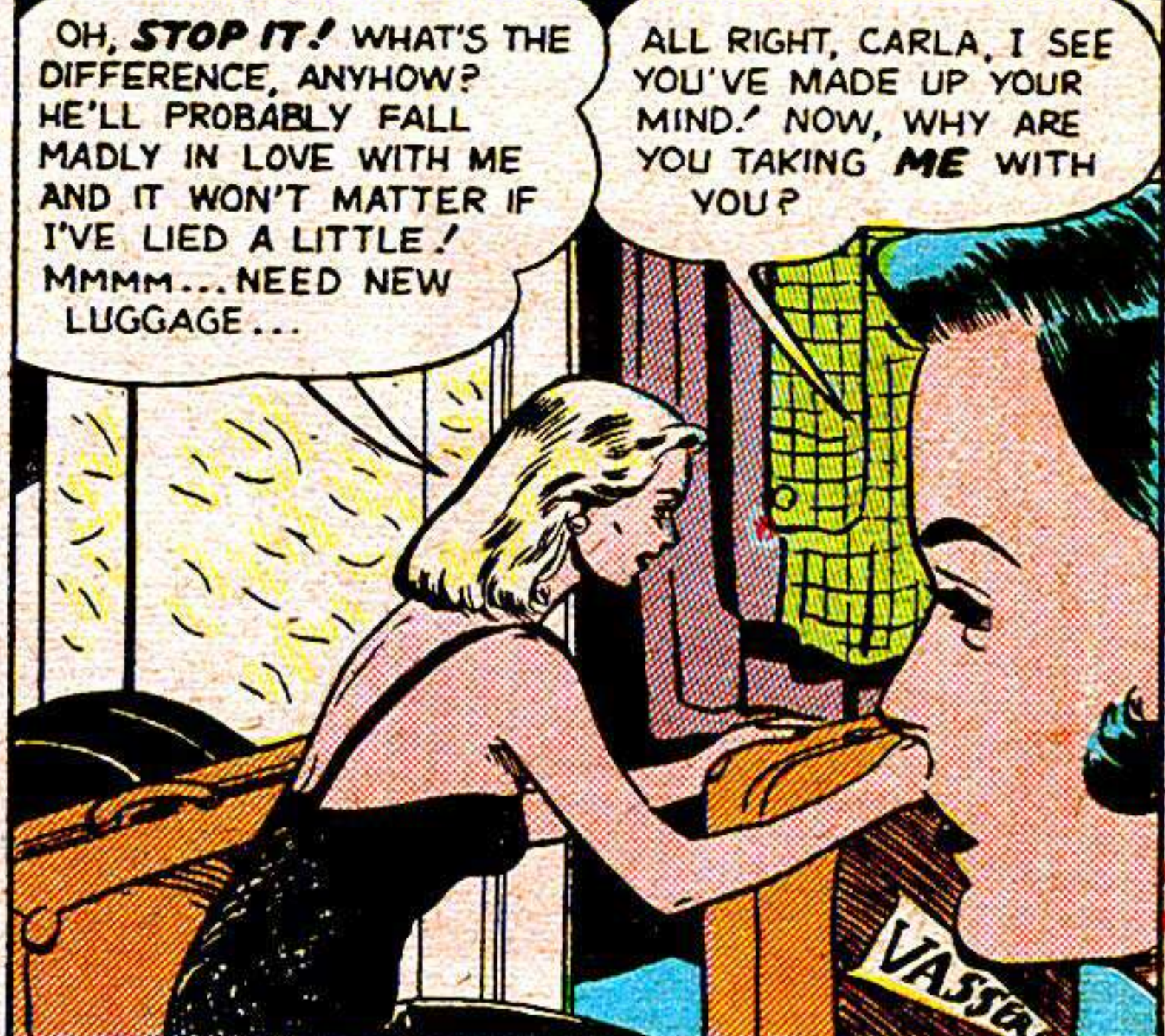
THAT'S **UNFAIR**, CARLA! YOU SAID NO ONE WOULD BE HURT, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LIES...



"I FOLLOWED CARLA THROUGH THE APARTMENT, PLEADING WITH HER TO CHANGE HER MIND, BUT..."

OH, **STOP IT!** WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, ANYHOW? HE'LL PROBABLY FALL MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME AND IT WON'T MATTER IF I'VE LIED A LITTLE! MMM...NEED NEW LUGGAGE...

ALL RIGHT, CARLA, I SEE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND! NOW, WHY ARE YOU TAKING **ME** WITH YOU?



"YES, INDEED, CARLA HAD THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING!"

IT'S **PERFECT**, PRUE! WITH YOUR HAIR PULLED TIGHT, HARDLY ANY MAKEUP, AND THAT OLD DARK SUIT OF MINE, YOU'LL BE THE TYPICAL WELL-BRED **COMPANION!**

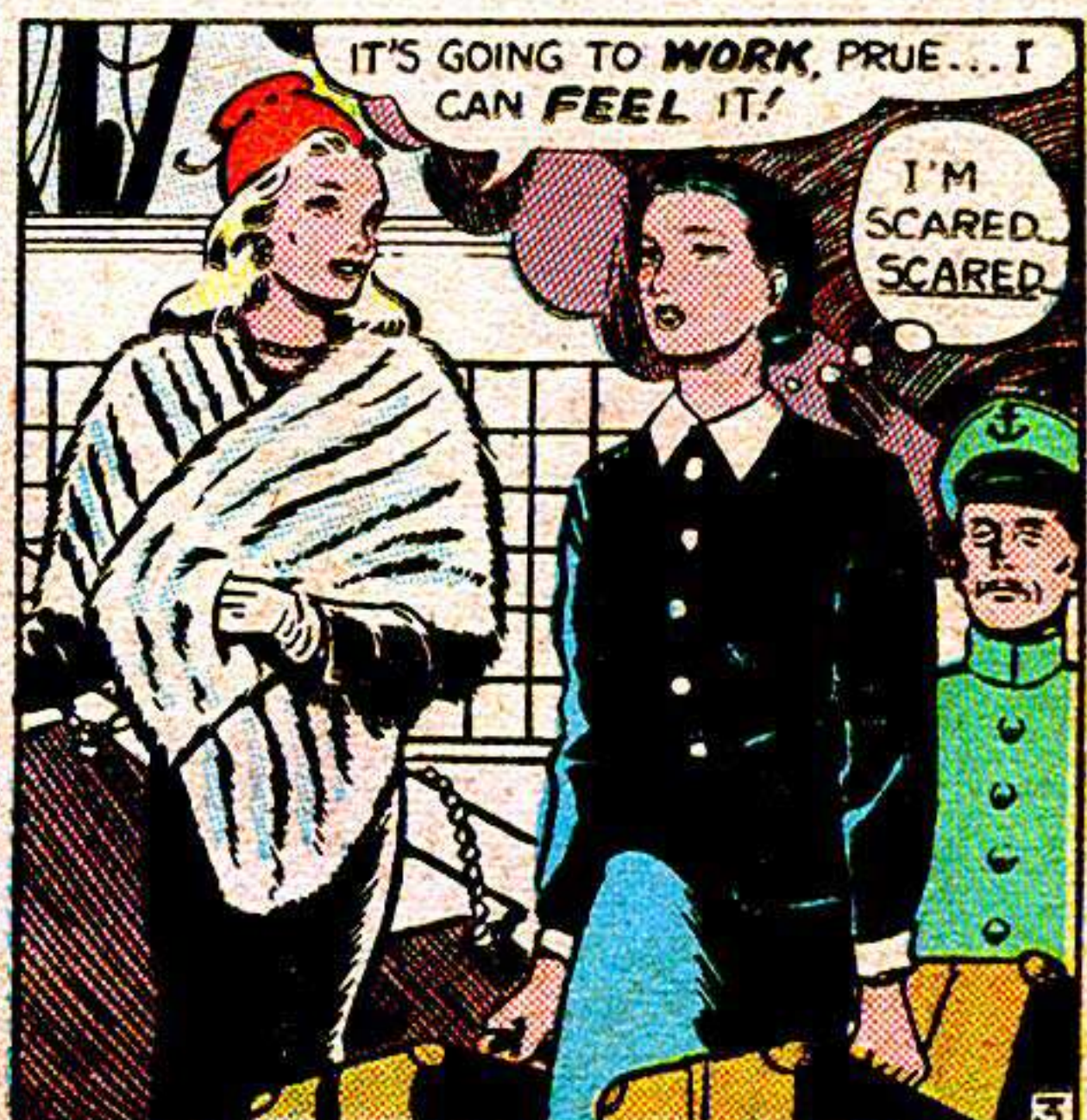


"LIKE A WHIRLWIND, SHE CARRIED EVERYTHING BEFORE HER! I HAD TO GO WITH CARLA...THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN! AND, LIKE A DRAB, MEEK, LITTLE MOUSE, I SCURRIED AFTER HER... **THE TYPICAL COMPANION!**"



IT'S GOING TO **WORK**, PRUE... I CAN **FEEL** IT!

I'M **SCARED**... **SCARED**...



"LONDON WAS A GREAT DIS-APPOINTMENT TO CARLA! NOT THE CITY ITSELF... SHE DIDN'T BOTHER TO INVESTIGATE ITS WONDERFUL CHARM! NO, CARLA'S DIS-APPOINTMENT WAS PERSONAL!"



ANOTHER RAIN! THIS **AWFUL** CITY, FULL OF SNOBBISH, STAND-OFFISH PEOPLE! OH, THEY'RE **POLITE** ENOUGH, BUT I HAVEN'T MET **ONE** MAN WORTH KNOWING AND...

.. AND OUR MONEY'S GOING... **FAST!**



"CARLA'S SCHEME WAS FADING AWAY AND THAT'S WHY SHE WAS ANGRY! SHE HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO ENGLISH GARDEN PARTIES, MEETING ROYALTY, PERHAPS, BEING A SOCIAL SENSATION, BUT..."

WE'VE BEEN HERE **ONE WHOLE WEEK** AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED! I'M SICK OF JUST **WAITING**, PRUE! I'M GOING TO **DO SOME... OH! LOOK!**



"HER ENTIRE MANNER CHANGED SUDDENLY! THAT PLOTTING, PLANNING LOOK WAS BACK AGAIN!"

THAT TALL MAN AT THE DESK... THE GOOD-LOOKING, YOUNG ONE... HE LOOKS **FAMILIAR** SOMEHOW... AS THOUGH...

CARLA... WHAT IS IT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



THAT'S FOR ME... I'M THROUGH WITH WAITING! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

IN LONDON FOR FARM CONFERENCE



RANDOLPH EXETER, EARL OF DERBYSHIRE

"WE WALKED TO THE ELEVATOR, CARLA QUICKENING HER STEPS TO CATCH UP WITH HIM! THEN, AS WE ENTERED, CARLA NUDGED ME... HARD! I STUMBLED..."

PRUE... **DARLING!** HOW CAN YOU BE SO CLUMSY? WE'RE SO SORRY...

QUITE ALL RIGHT... REALLY! MY FAULT, IN FACT! SORRY!



"I FELT LIKE A FOOL, MADE TO SEEM AWKWARD AND RUDE! BUT THIS WAS **CARLA'S PARTY**..."

I WON'T BELIEVE WE'RE FORGIVEN UNTIL YOU TAKE TEA WITH US, THIS AFTERNOON... **NOW!** SAY YOU WILL!

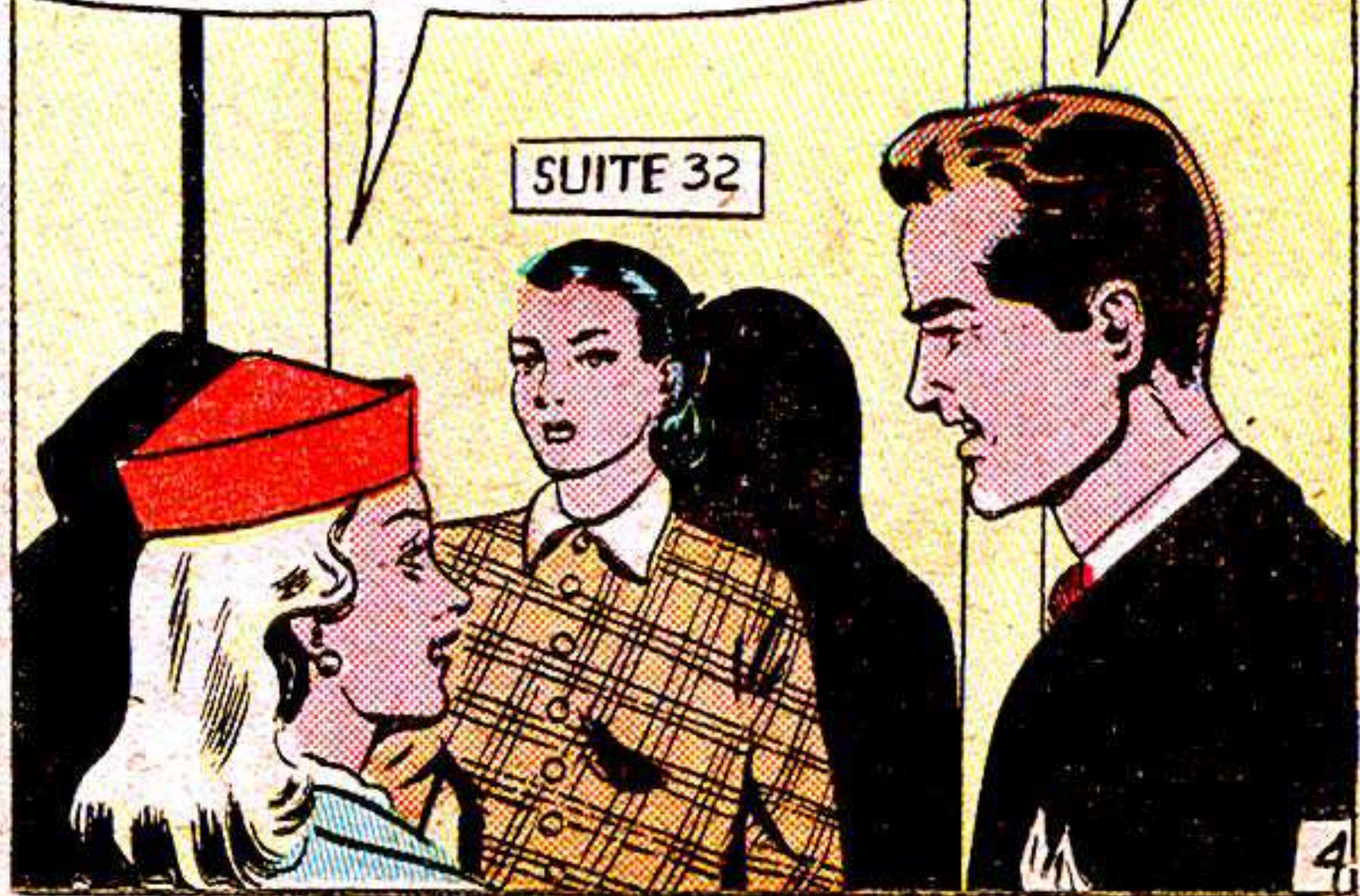
WELL, I DO HAVE A FREE HOUR, BUT THIS IS ALL SO **INFORMAL!** I'M RANDOLPH EXETER... AND...?



"...AND CARLA MADE THE MOST OF IT!"

I'M CARLA SWAINE... THIS IS MY... **COMPANION!** I DON'T WORRY ABOUT FORMALITIES... I'M AN AMERICAN, REMEMBER! AND A **LONESOME** ONE!

NOW, THAT'S AN APPEAL I **CAN'T** RESIST!



CARLA COULD CHARM A BIRD OUT OF A TREE, IF SHE WISHED... AND THE HEART OUT OF A MAN! AND I REALIZED, TOO, WITH A QUIVER OF SHAME, WHAT A SUPERB LIAR MY SISTER WAS!

I...I'M A BIT HOME-SICK, I GUESS! I'D GIVE **ANYTHING** TO BE BACK ON THE FARM AGAIN...

FARM? YOU?

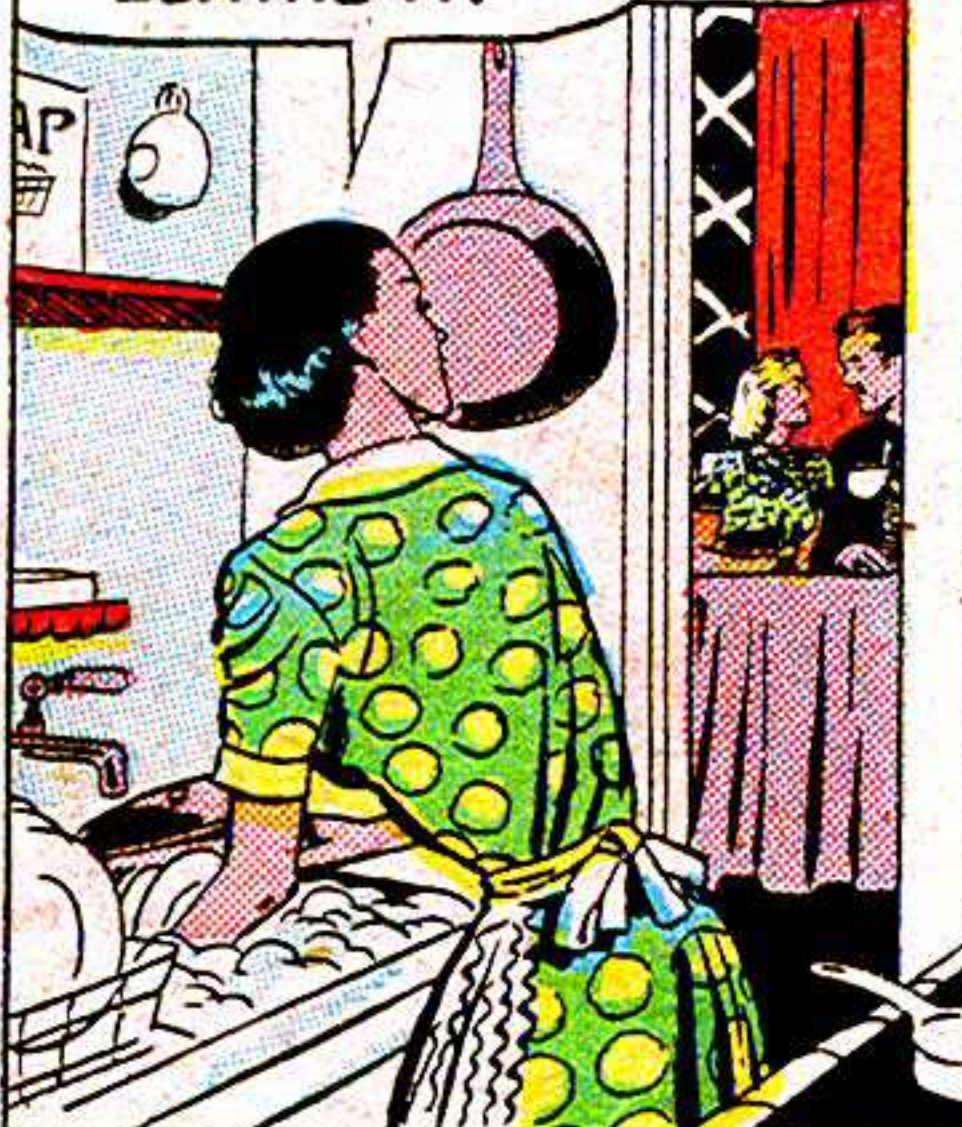
"SHE WAS PLAYING ON HIS INTERESTS, OF COURSE! HOW CLEVERLY SHE PUT TO USE WHAT SHE'D READ IN THE NEWSPAPER..."

IT'S A TREMENDOUS CATTLE RANCH, REALLY! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY STOCK BREEDING, AND WHILE I'VE NEVER EXACTLY **RUN** THE RANCH, I **HAVE**...

THOUGH I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT THEY WERE SAYING, I COULD IMAGINE CARLA'S EYES, SOFTENING, LOOKING DEEPLY INTO HIS, HER HAND TOUCHING HIS AS THOUGH BY ACCIDENT..."



I DISLIKED THIS... PLAN... THIS MAN-TRAPPING CAMPAIGN FROM THE START, AND NOW... I **LOATHE IT!**



"FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT AS THOUGH I WERE AN ACCOMPLICE TO SOME CRIME! I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING... **TO WARN HIM... BUT...**"



GO ON WITH THE HOUSEKEEPING, PRUE! WE'RE OFF TO A FARM CONFERENCE... AND DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME, DEAR!

VERY WELL... I WON'T...

"I TRIED TO GO TO SLEEP, BUT I COULDN'T! INSTEAD I SAT UP FOR HOURS, A BOOK IN MY HANDS, THINKING ABOUT THEM... WONDERING! THEN, VERY LATE..."



THAT'S CARLA'S KEY IN THE DOOR... I'D BETTER GET OUT OF SIGHT, IN CASE SHE'S ASKED HIM UP FOR A NIGHT-CAP!

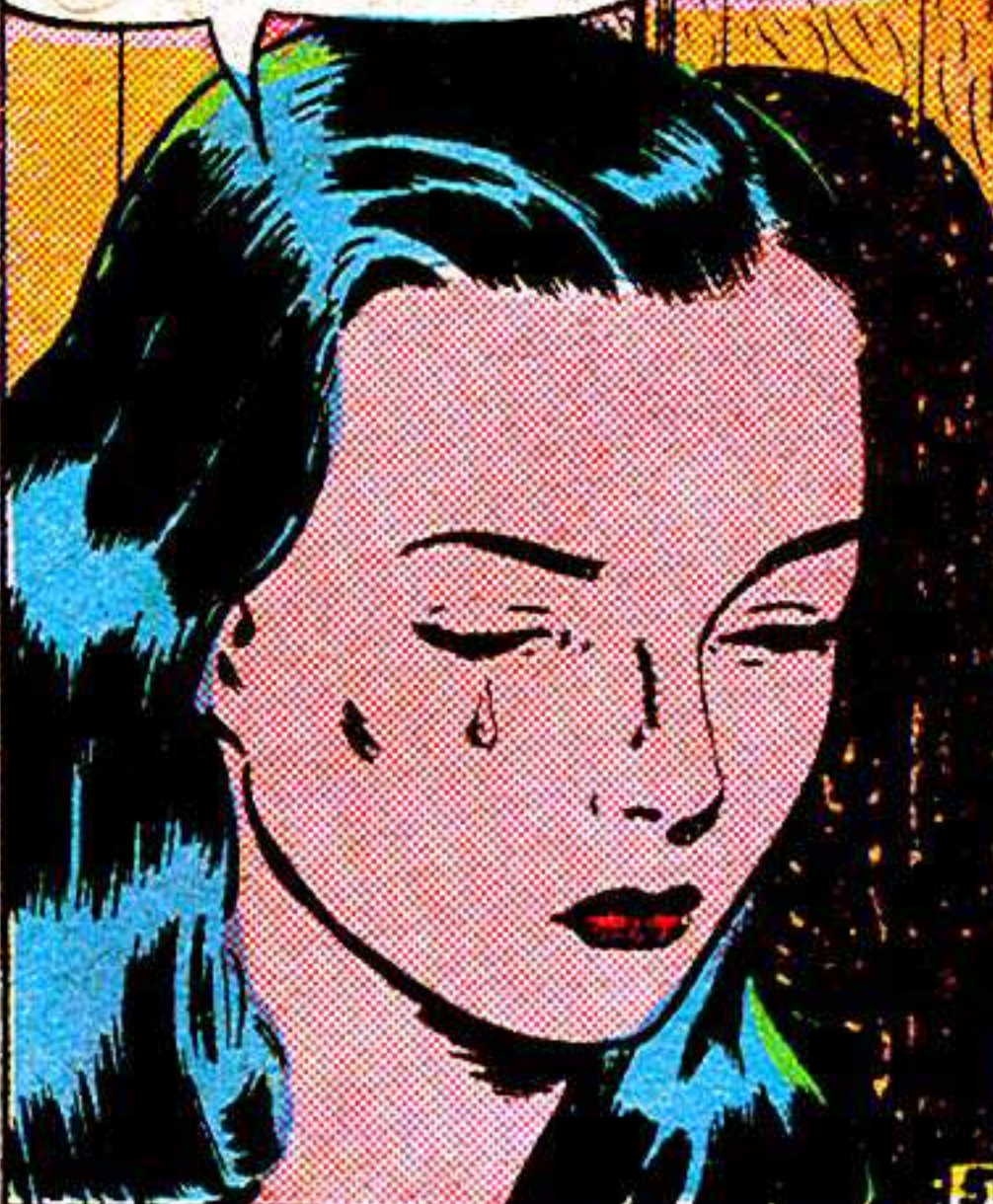
"EVERYTHING WAS GOING CARLA'S WAY... I COULD SEE THAT! AND MY HEART BEGAN TO PUMP AS I SAW HER MAKE A GESTURE OF WEARINESS AND DROP HER HEAD ONTO HIS SHOULDER..."



IT'S NOT **FAIR**... SHE'S **DECEIVING** HIM... **LEADING HIM ON...**

"HIS ARM WENT ABOUT HER, GENTLY, PROTECTIVELY... AND A PANG WENT THROUGH MY HEART! AND THEN I KNEW..."

I...I'M **JEALOUS!** AND THERE'S **NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!**



"PANIC AND SHAME CROWDED IN ON ME! HOW COULD I WANT SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T WANT ME... WHO THOUGHT OF ME ONLY AS A PAID COMPANION..."

...IF HE THINKS OF ME AT ALL! AND CARLA...PERHAPS SHE DOES LOVE HIM...



"THOUGH MY HEART AND PULSES WERE THROBBING WILDLY, I PRETENDED TO BE ASLEEP WHEN MY SISTER MADE HER TRIUMPHANT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NIGHT!"

PRUE, PRUE! IT'S WORKING! BEFORE LONG HE'LL BE TWISTED AROUND MY LITTLE FINGER...AND I'LL HAVE A TITLE! PRUE, PRUE, WAKE UP!



"DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE WAKING NIGHTMARES, IN WHICH I SPENT HOURS MAKING CARLA MORE BEAUTIFUL..."

NOT THAT WAY, PRUE, YOU KNOW I LIKE IT CURLED UNDER! AND HURRY... RANDY'S DUE ANY SECOND! I HOPE YOU REMEMBERED TO STEAM MY VELVET CAPE!

YES, I REMEMBERED. CARLA... LISTEN! I...



"IT WAS ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE TO SAY WHAT WAS ON THE TIP OF MY HEART! BUT THE BUZZER SOUNDED AND CARLA FLEW TO THE DOOR..."



RANDY... DARLING, DID IT... DARLING? OH... THAT SLIPPED OUT...



"SHE WALKED INTO HIS ARMS... AND HE KISSED HER! I SHUT MY EYES AGAINST THE SUDDEN PAIN WITHIN ME..."

SHE DOESN'T LOVE HIM... I KNOW! AND I DO! BUT I MUSTN'T... IT'S WRONG!

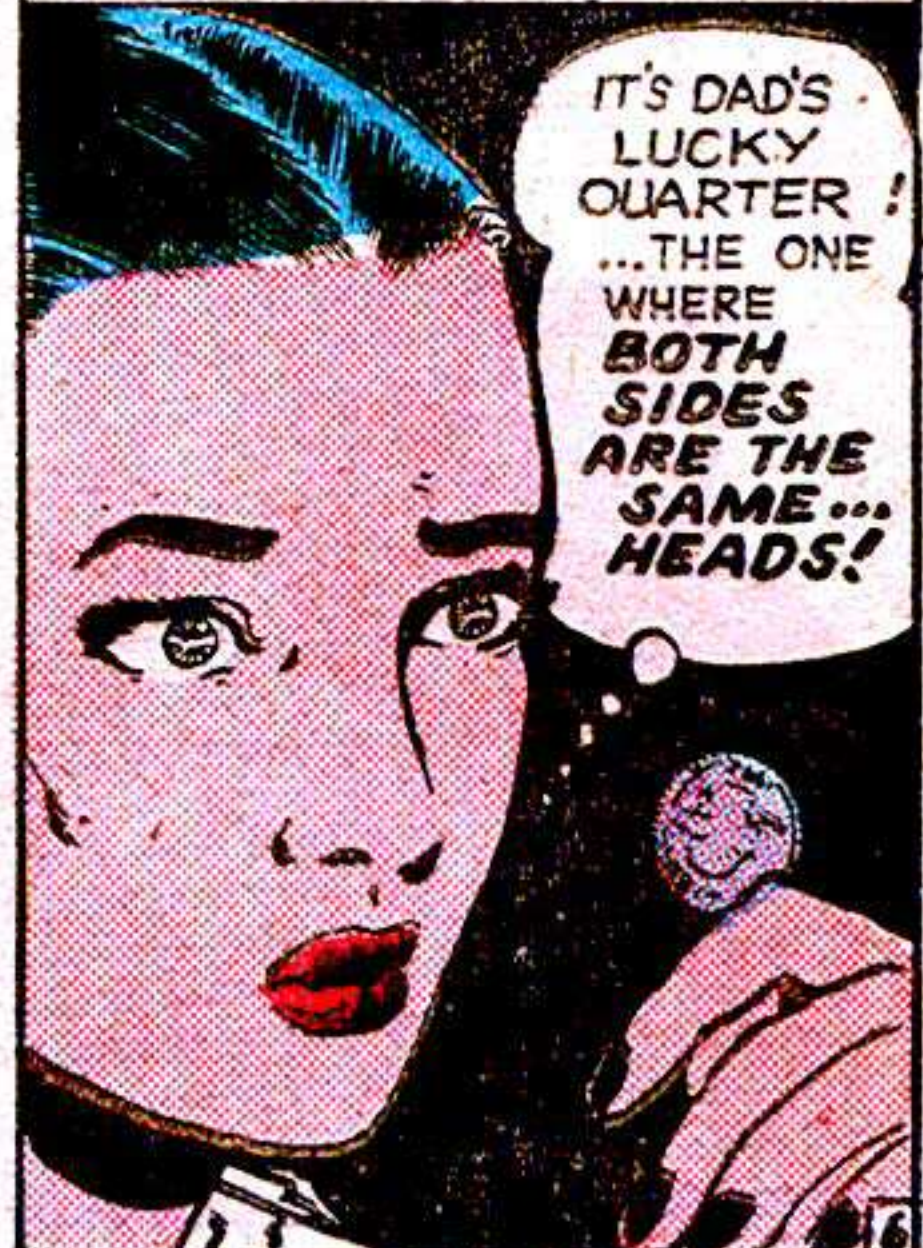


"THEY WERE GONE! ALONE AND LONESOME, I WANDERED THROUGH THE LARGE, EMPTY HOTEL SUITE, MECHANICALLY TIDYING UP AFTER CARLA..."

SOMETIMES, EVEN CARLA BELIEVES I'M HER SERVANT! I... WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?



"MY HEART STOOD STILL... I HAD FOUND THE COIN THAT CARLA HAD TOSSED TO DECIDE WHICH OF US..."



IT'S DAD'S LUCKY QUARTER! ...THE ONE WHERE BOTH SIDES ARE THE SAME... HEADS!

"SLOWLY, I PUT THE COIN BACK INTO CARLA'S PURSE. SO THE WHOLE THING HAD BEEN A CHEAT! WE WERE VICTIMS... RANDY... AND I!"

"FROM THAT MOMENT OF DISCOVERY, I WAS FILLED WITH BITTER RESENTMENT AND THEN... **REBELLION!** ONE EVENING..."



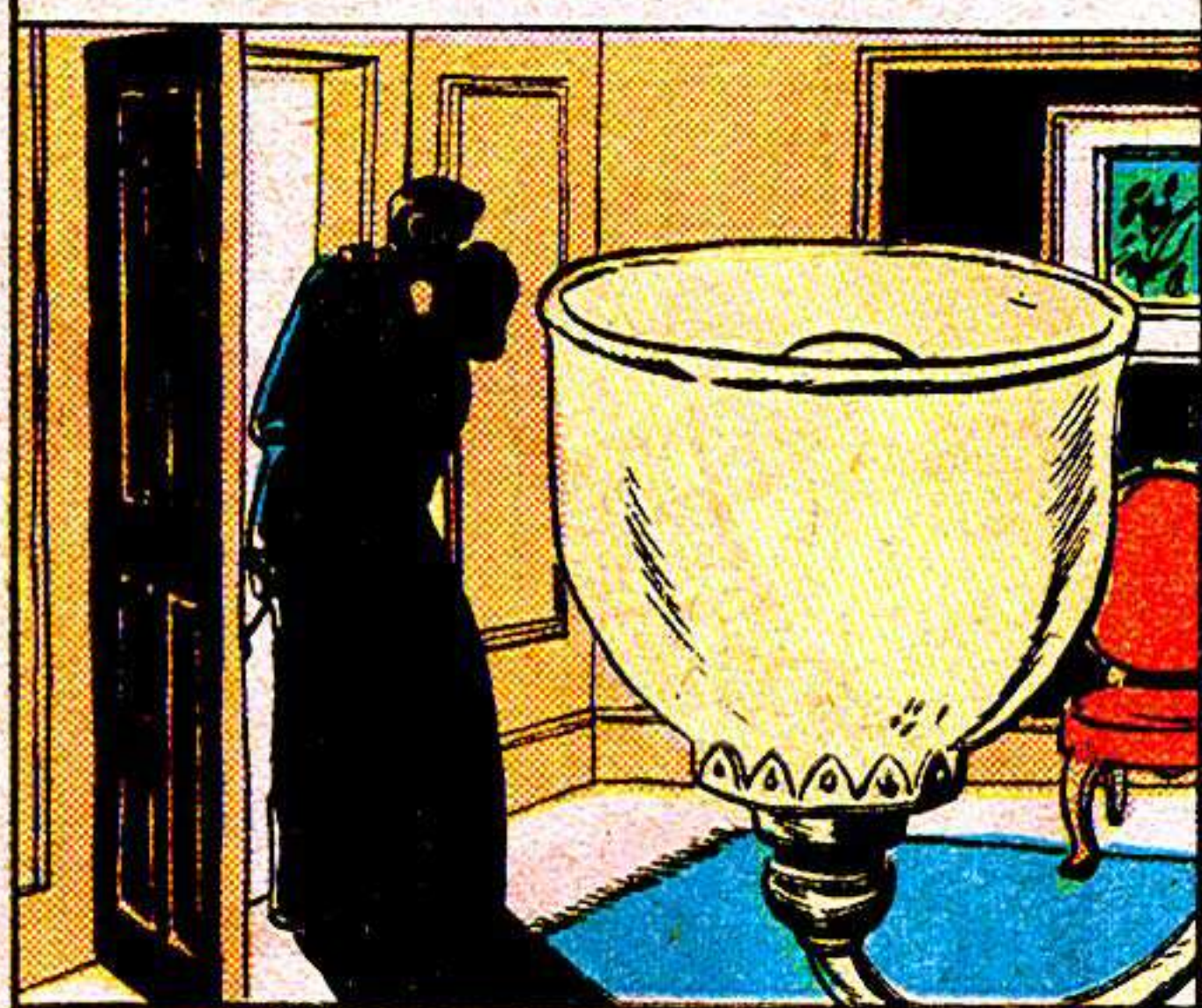
I'M **TIRED** OF LOOKING DOWDY, FRUMPY! I'M PRETTY, TOO... AS PRETTY AS CARLA! I'D LOOK JUST AS LOVELY IN THESE GLAMOROUS CLOTHES... THIS SATIN GOWN...

"SLIPPING INTO THE LAVISH GOWN, I LOOSENEED MY HAIR AND LET IT CURL! I APPLIED MAKEUP CAREFULLY, AS THOUGH I WERE GOING SOMEWHERE! AND THEN..."



WHY, THAT'S THE DOOR BUZZER! I DIDN'T ORDER ANYTHING... BUT MAYBE CARLA DID...

"IN THE DIM LIGHT OF THE OUTER HALLWAY, I OPENED THE DOOR! THE SHIMMER OF THE SATIN, THE SCENT OF THE PERFUME MUST HAVE FOOLED HIM... FOR..."



"I WAS IN HIS ARMS! HE WAS KISSING ME! THOUGH HE THOUGHT I WAS CARLA, I DIDN'T CARE... FOR I WANTED HIM TO GO ON KISSING ME..."



"HIS VOICE TREMBLED! IT WAS STRANGELY MOVING IN THE DARK QUIET THAT SURROUNDED US..."

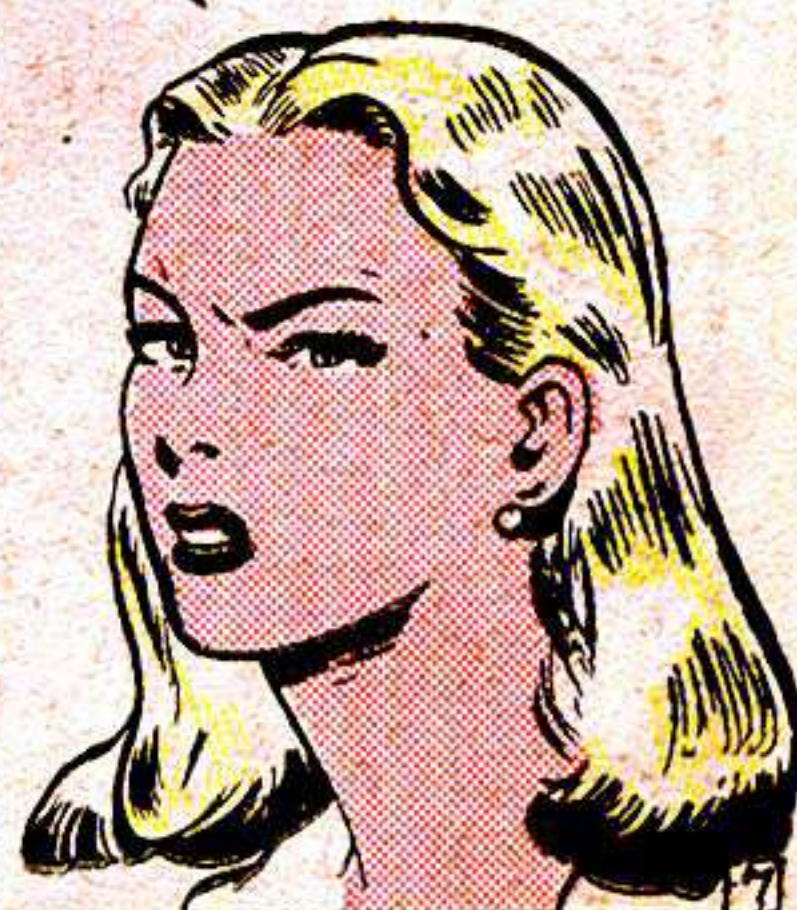
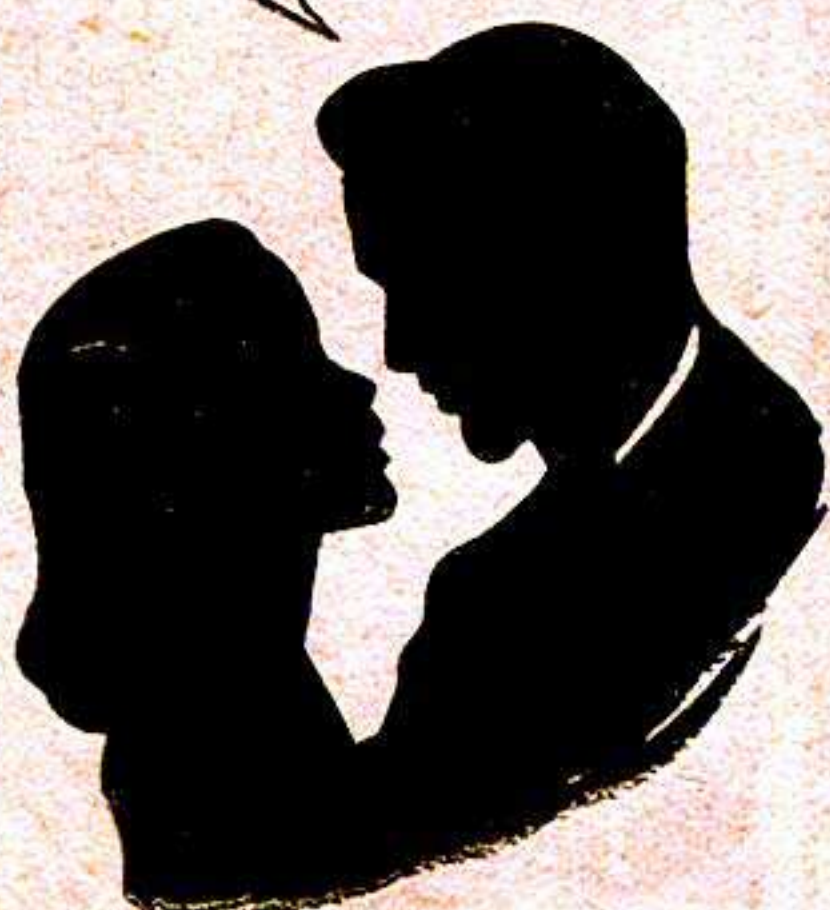
DARLING... I... I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE! IT'S AS THOUGH... AS THOUGH I WERE KISSING **ANOTHER GIRL...**"

"THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO ANSWER." A HAND FLICKED THE LIGHT SWITCH AND **CARLA** STOOD THERE, LOOKING AT US!"

YOU **WERE** KISSING ANOTHER GIRL, MY PET... AND YOU'RE **WELCOME** TO HER!

CARLA... PLEASE... IT WAS A MISTAKE! RANDY DIDN'T MEAN...

DON'T BOTHER EXPLAINING, SISTER, DEAR! I REALLY DON'T **CARE!** YOU SEE, I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT THIS **CHARMING** MAN IS A **PHONEY!** HE'S **NOT** THE EARL OF DERBYSHIRE OR **ANYSHIRE!**



"WHAT WAS BAD NEWS TO CARLA, WAS LIKE THE PEALING OF VICTORY BELLS TO ME! WHAT DID I CARE ABOUT TITLES?"

YOU REALLY **DON'T CARE**, CARLA! IT WAS THE TITLE AND FORTUNE YOU **THOUGHT** HE HAD...

OH, STOP YOUR PREACHING! AND **WHO** SAID YOU COULD WEAR **MY** GOWN...YOU LOOK **AWFUL** IN IT!

RANDY STROLLED CALMLY INTO THE LIVING ROOM... FOR A PHONEY, HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING HARD NOT TO LAUGH..."

JUST **HOW** DID YOU LEARN THAT I'M AN... AH... **IMPOSTER?**

MERE CHANCE! I **HAPPENED** TO BE GLANCING THROUGH "WHO'S WHO"...

...AND THERE'S **NO TITLE** AFTER **YOUR NAME!** OF COURSE, YOU'RE FROM A GOOD **FAMILY**, BUT...

STOP IT, CARLA! WHAT **DIFFERENCE** DOES IT MAKE? I'M **GLAD** HE'S NOT TITLED, **GLAD** HE WON'T BE **CHEATED...**

A LOOK OF UNCERTAINTY CAME INTO CARLA'S EYES! HOW CONTEMPTIBLE SHE WAS...AND HOW **FURIOUS** WHEN..."

YOU SHOULD HAVE CHECKED THE **DATE OF PUBLICATION** OF THAT "WHO'S WHO", CARLA! **I AM** IN THE NEW ISSUE! YOU SEE, I CAME INTO THE TITLE JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO!

SCHEMERS AND PLOTTERS OFTEN OUT-SCHEME **THEMSELVES!** CARLA WAS NOT A PRETTY SIGHT AS SHE REALIZED THAT **SHE HAD DONE JUST THAT!**

I HATE YOU... BOTH OF YOU... YOU THINK YOU'RE **CLEVER, SMARTER THAN ME...**

NOT SMARTER, CARLA! JUST **HONEST!** YOU TRIED TO CHEAT US...AND CHEATED ONLY **YOURSELF!**

CANDIDLY, I TOLD RANDY THE STORY OF OUR INHERITANCE, CARLA'S PLAN! IT HURT TO CONFESS MY PART IN IT, BUT I WANTED HIM TO KNOW EVERYTHING! AND WHEN HE DID..."

NEVER MIND, PRUE, WE CAN START AFRESH... YOU AND I! I SHALL PROCEED MORE SLOWLY WITH OUR COURTSHIP... I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU AT THE DOOR...

DON'T PROCEED SLOWLY, RANDY... PLEASE!

"AND SO, WE TOOK UP WHERE WE HAD LEFT OFF..."

"AND OUR HAPPY ENDING WAS A HAPPY BEGINNING FOR MANY YEARS OF LOVE AND LIFE TOGETHER!"

Does he **REALLY LOVE YOU?**



YOU'VE PROBABLY READ DOZENS OF ARTICLES WHICH TRIED TO TEACH YOU HOW TO KNOW WHEN **YOU'RE IN LOVE**-- BUT HERE'S ONE WHICH WILL HELP YOU TO KNOW WHETHER **HE REALLY LOVES YOU!** IF YOU'RE A MODERN MISS, YOU WON'T USE THE DAISY-PICKING TECHNIQUE, BUT A TEST THAT'S PSYCHOLOGICALLY SOUND-- AND IF THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE PASSES THIS TEST, WEDDING BELLS WILL SOON BE RINGING FOR YOU!

DOES HE BLURT OUT HIS LOVE AT UNROMANTIC MOMENTS, AS IF HE CAN'T HELP HIMSELF? THEN HE'S NO PART-TIME ROMEO WHO GIVES OUT WITH THE LOVE TALK ONLY WHEN THE SETTING IS RIGHT AND HE CAN EXPECT KISSES FROM YOU IN RETURN!



IS HE PROUD ENOUGH OF YOU TO SHOW YOU OFF TO HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY?



DOES HE ENJOY DOING THINGS WITH YOU WHICH BORED HIM IN THE PAST? THAT PROVES THAT YOU'RE SOMEONE **SPECIAL** TO HIM -- AND THAT HE'S HAPPY IF YOU'RE HAPPY!

I ALWAYS USED TO THINK THIS WAS KID STUFF -- BUT WITH YOU, IT'S FUN!



DOES HE THINK YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU AREN'T DRESSED UP AND GROOMED TO KILL? IF SO, HE'S NOT DAZZLED BY YOUR SUPERFICIAL GLAMOUR -- BUT BY **YOU!**

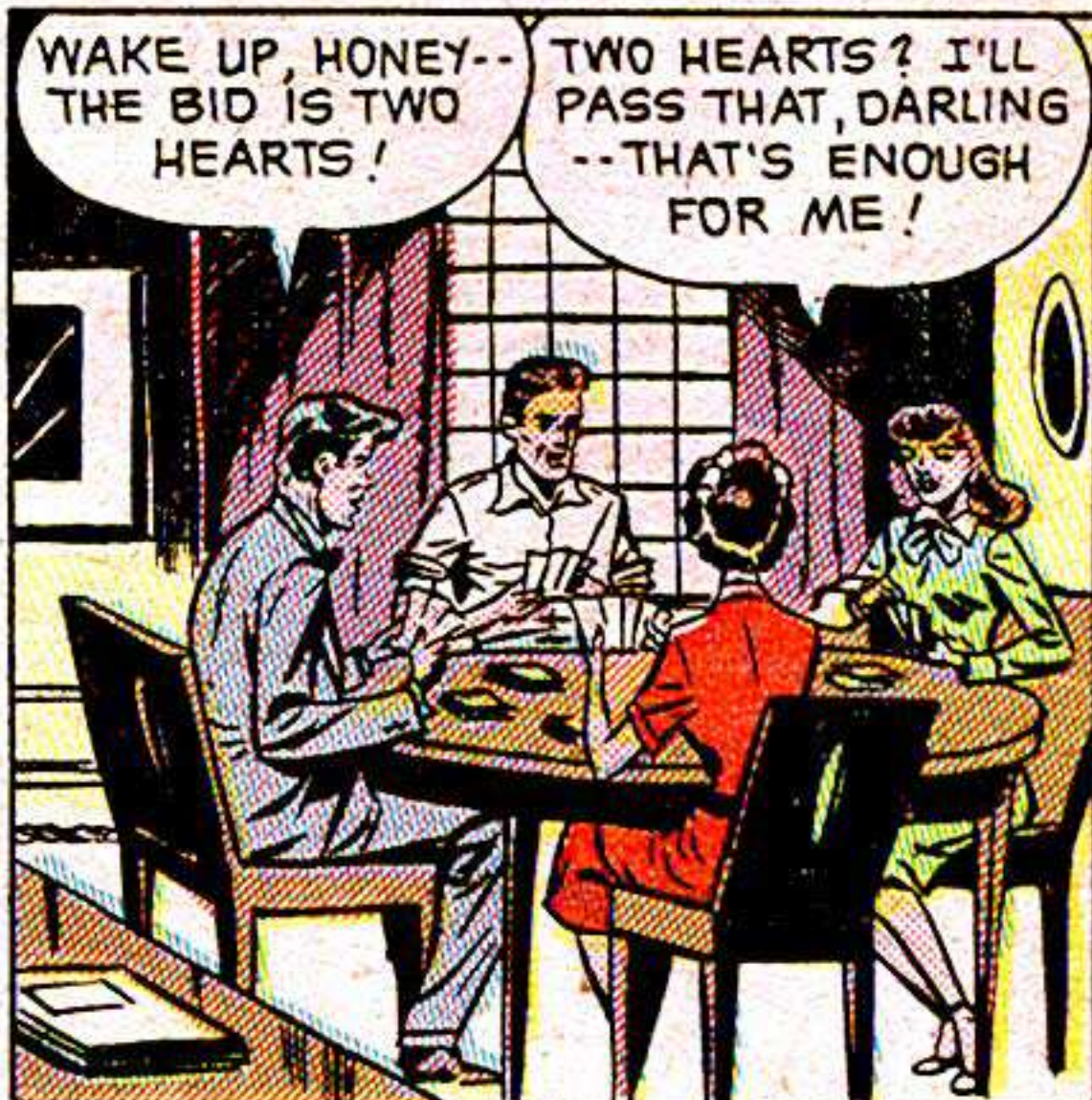


DOES HE OFTEN CHANGE THE SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION FROM HIMSELF TO YOU-- AND SHOW AN INSATIABLE INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR BACKGROUND? YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS --IF YOU KNOW THAT A PERSON REALLY IN LOVE FORGETS HIMSELF AND IS HUNGRY FOR EVERY SCRAP OF INFORMATION THAT HELPS HIM TO UNDERSTAND HIS BELOVED!



NEVER MIND ABOUT ME-- TELL ME, WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES-- WHAT WERE YOU LIKE AS A CHILD?

DOES HE WANT TO BE WITH YOU EVEN IF HE KNOWS THERE'LL BE NO CHANCE FOR PRIVACY OR FOR CARESSES? THEN HE FEELS MORE THAN JUST A PHYSICAL ATTRACTION FOR YOU-- BUT AN EMOTIONAL ONE AS WELL!



WAKE UP, HONEY-- THE BID IS TWO HEARTS!

TWO HEARTS? I'LL PASS THAT, DARLING --THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME!

DOES HE WRITE OR PHONE YOU IMPULSIVELY WHEN IT REALLY ISN'T NECESSARY-- EXCEPT TO HIM? THEN YOU'VE REALLY GOT HIM HOOKED!

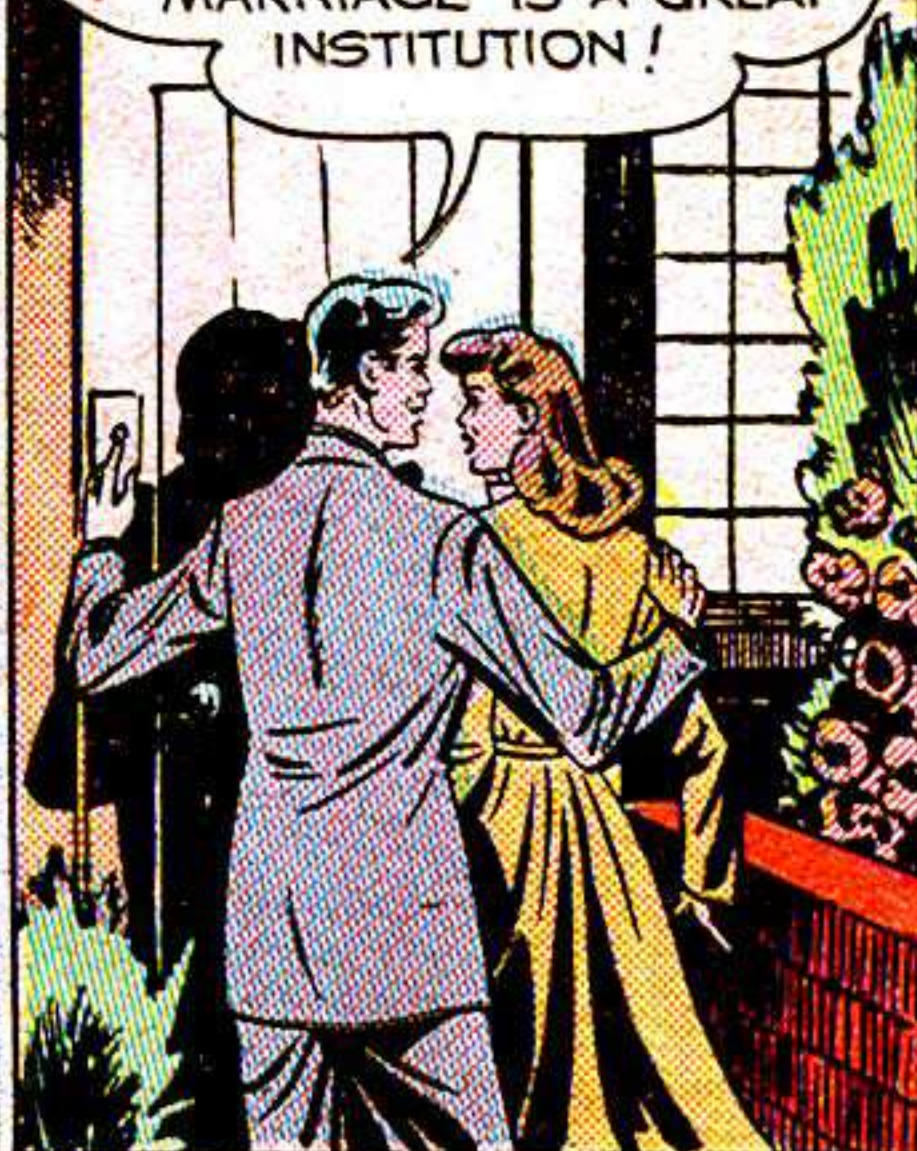


BUT, DARLING, IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT-- IS ANYTHING WRONG?

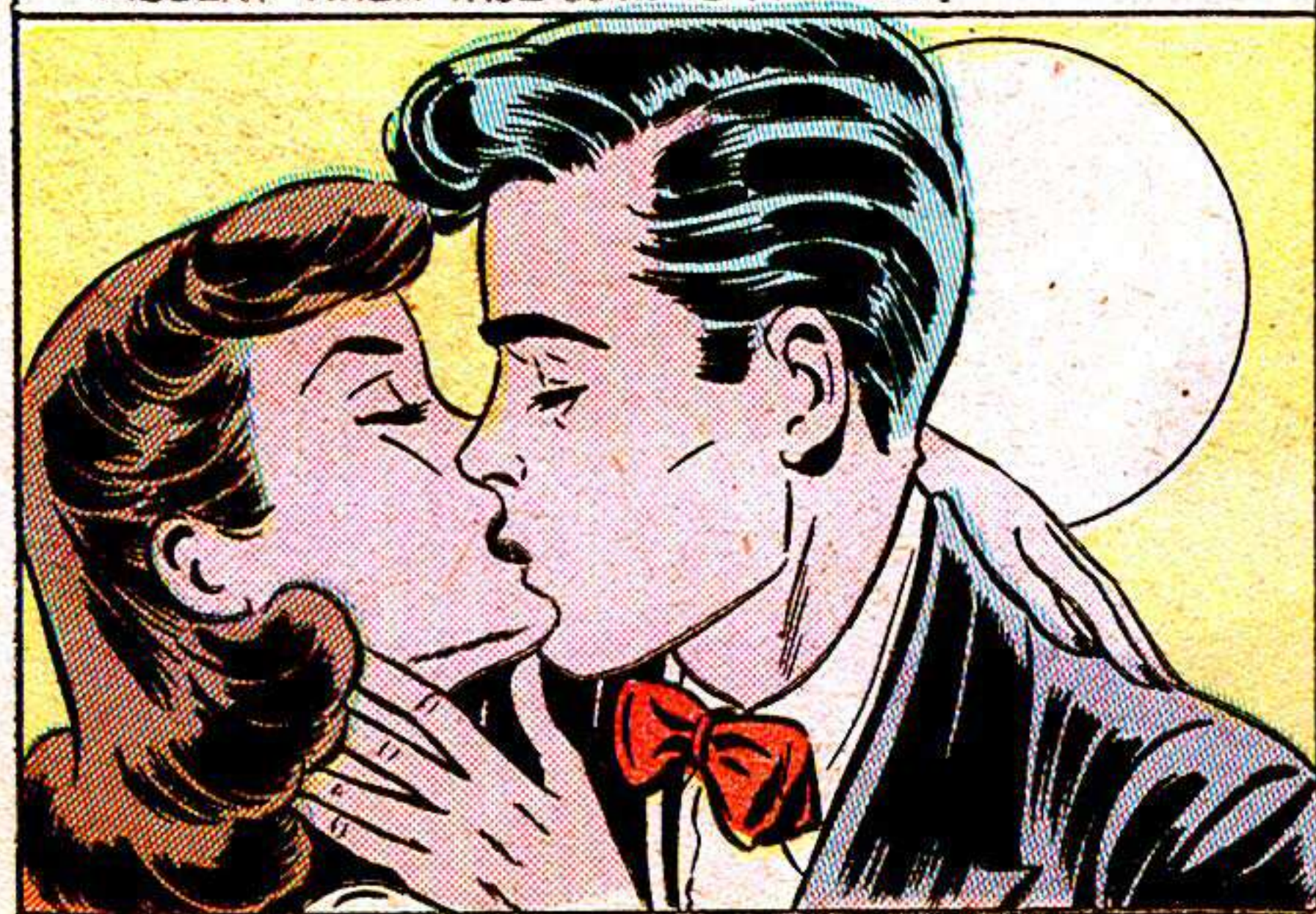
NO-- I...I JUST COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP WITHOUT HEARING YOUR VOICE AGAIN!

DOES HE ENJOY TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS VIRTUES? IF HE SHIES AWAY FROM THE SUBJECT EVERYTIME IT'S BROUGHT UP, HE'S PROBABLY NOT SERIOUSLY IN LOVE-- BUT IF HE SEEMS TO BE FASCINATED BY IT, THEN YOU CAN BE SURE HE'LL BE POPPING THE QUESTION SOME DAY SOON!

YOU'LL LIKE BILL AND TRUDY-- THEY'RE THE MOST HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE I KNOW-- THE LIVING PROOF THAT MARRIAGE IS A GREAT INSTITUTION!



ARE HIS CARESSES TENDERLY LOVING AT TIMES, IN ADDITION TO BEING WILD AND TEMPESTUOUS AT OTHER TIMES? THAT'S THE BEST TEST OF ALL, BECAUSE TENDERNESS IS NEVER ABSENT WHEN TRUE LOVE IS PRESENT!

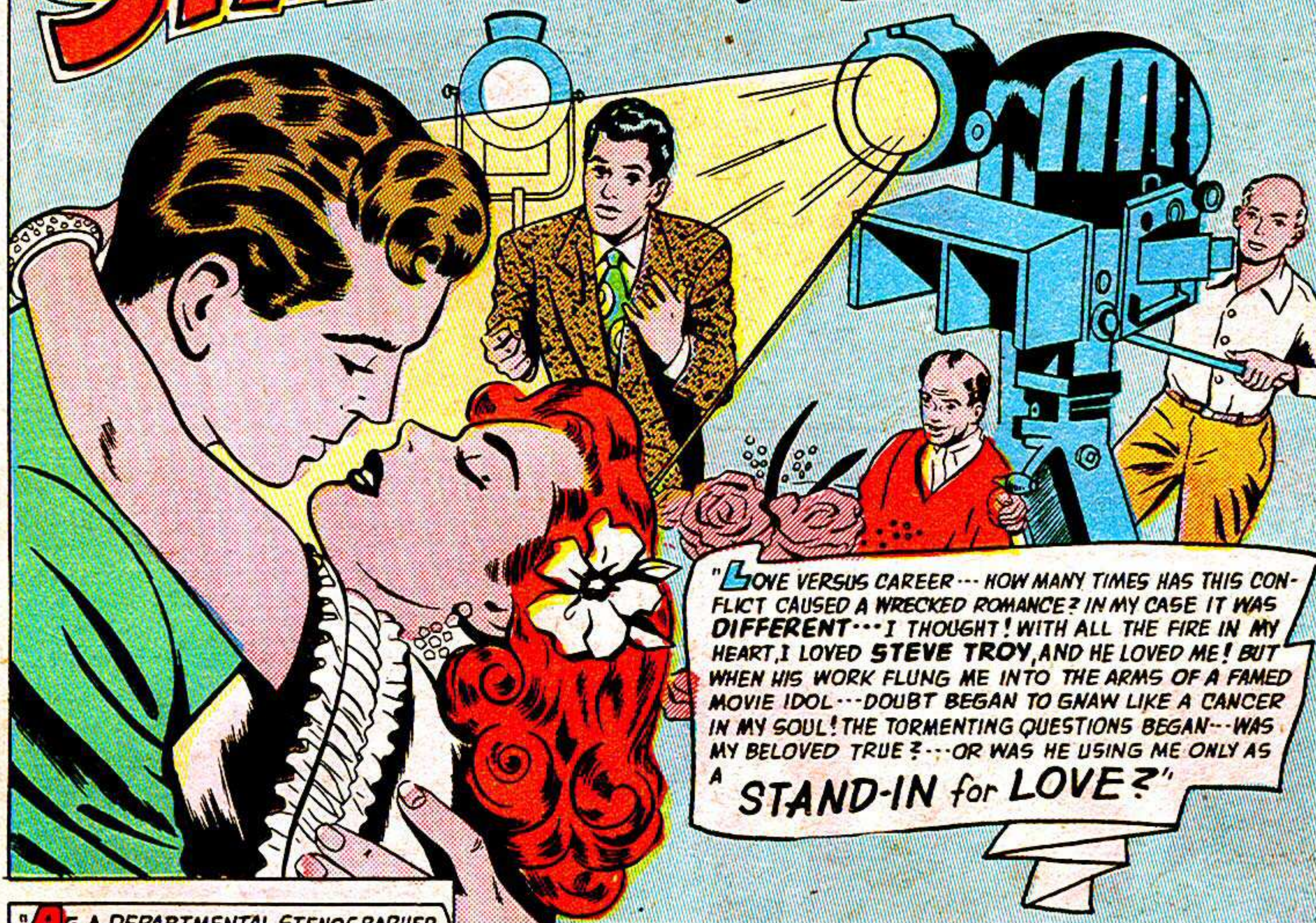


IF YOUR BELOVED HAS PASSED THE ABOVE TESTS WITH FLYING COLORS, THEN THIS WILL BE HAPPENING TO YOU SOON-- AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND US A WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT!



THE END

STAND-IN for LOVE



"**L**OVE VERSUS CAREER... HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS CONFLICT CAUSED A WRECKED ROMANCE? IN MY CASE IT WAS DIFFERENT... I THOUGHT! WITH ALL THE FIRE IN MY HEART, I LOVED STEVE TROY, AND HE LOVED ME! BUT WHEN HIS WORK FLUNG ME INTO THE ARMS OF A FAMED MOVIE IDOL... DOUBT BEGAN TO GNAW LIKE A CANCER IN MY SOUL! THE TORMENTING QUESTIONS BEGAN... WAS MY BELOVED TRUE?... OR WAS HE USING ME ONLY AS A **STAND-IN** for LOVE?"

"**A**S A DEPARTMENTAL STENOGRAPHER, I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO STEVE TROY TO LOSE MY HEART... BUT NEVER NEAR ENOUGH FOR HIM TO NOTICE ME! BUT ONE DAY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO MY DREAMS..."

DON'T GET TOO EXCITED ABOUT YOUR NEW JOB, LAURA! AS STEVE TROY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, YOU'LL DISCOVER QUICK ENOUGH THAT HE'S **STRICTLY BUSINESS!**



"**A**S MY NEW BOSS WALKED BY, MY HEART THROBBED VIOLENTLY! I WAS SURE HE'D SEEN HOW FLUSTERED I WAS, BUT I DIDN'T CARE!"

THERE GOES THE **HIGH LAMA OF HOKUM, HIMSELF!** RELAX, HONEY... HE PAYS NO ATTENTION TO **ANYONE** UNLESS THERE'S A PUBLICITY ANGLE ATTACHED! TAKE A TIP FROM ME... **FORGET** ABOUT ROMANCE!

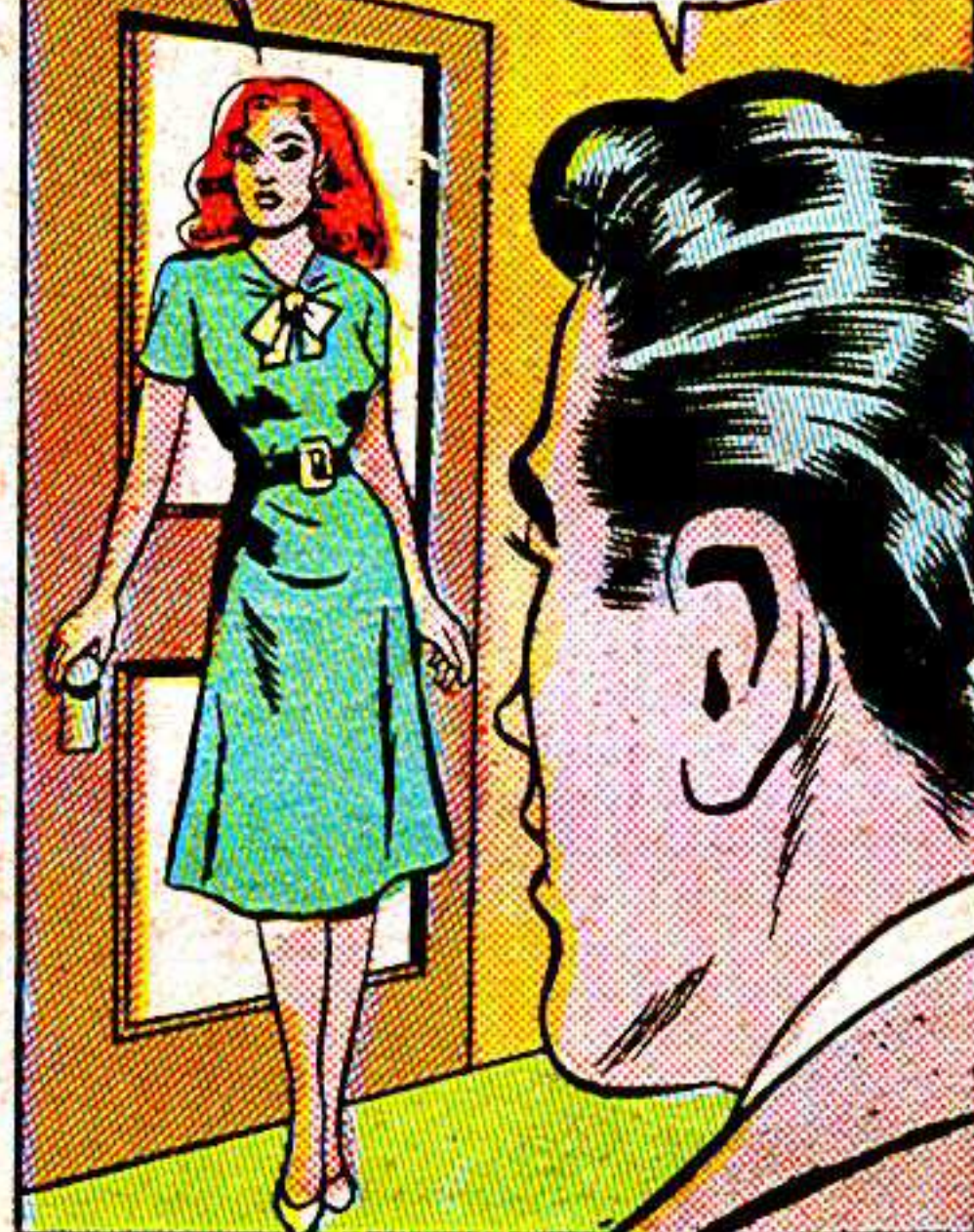
I'LL TRY, MARGE... BUT WISH ME LUCK, ANYHOW!

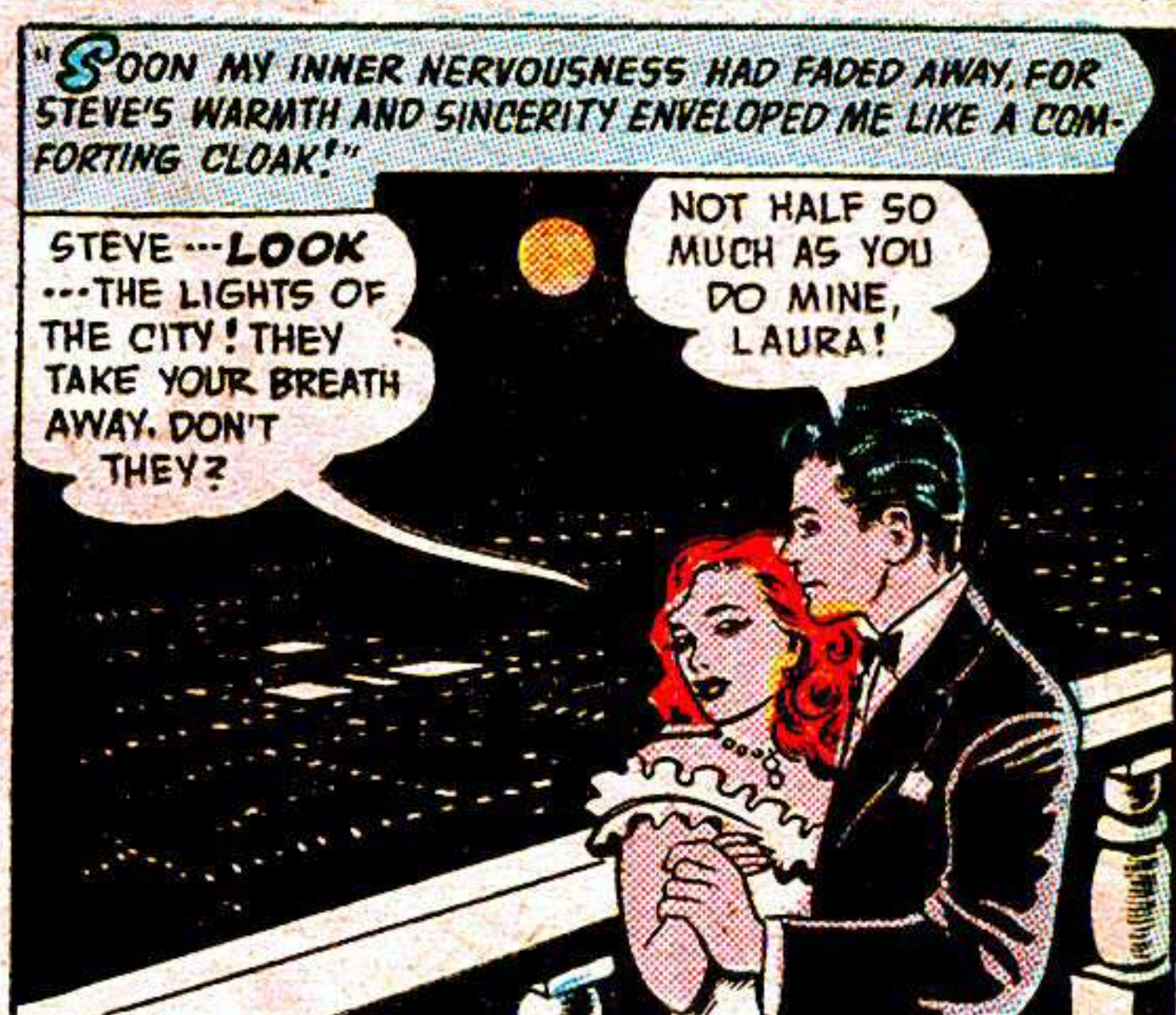
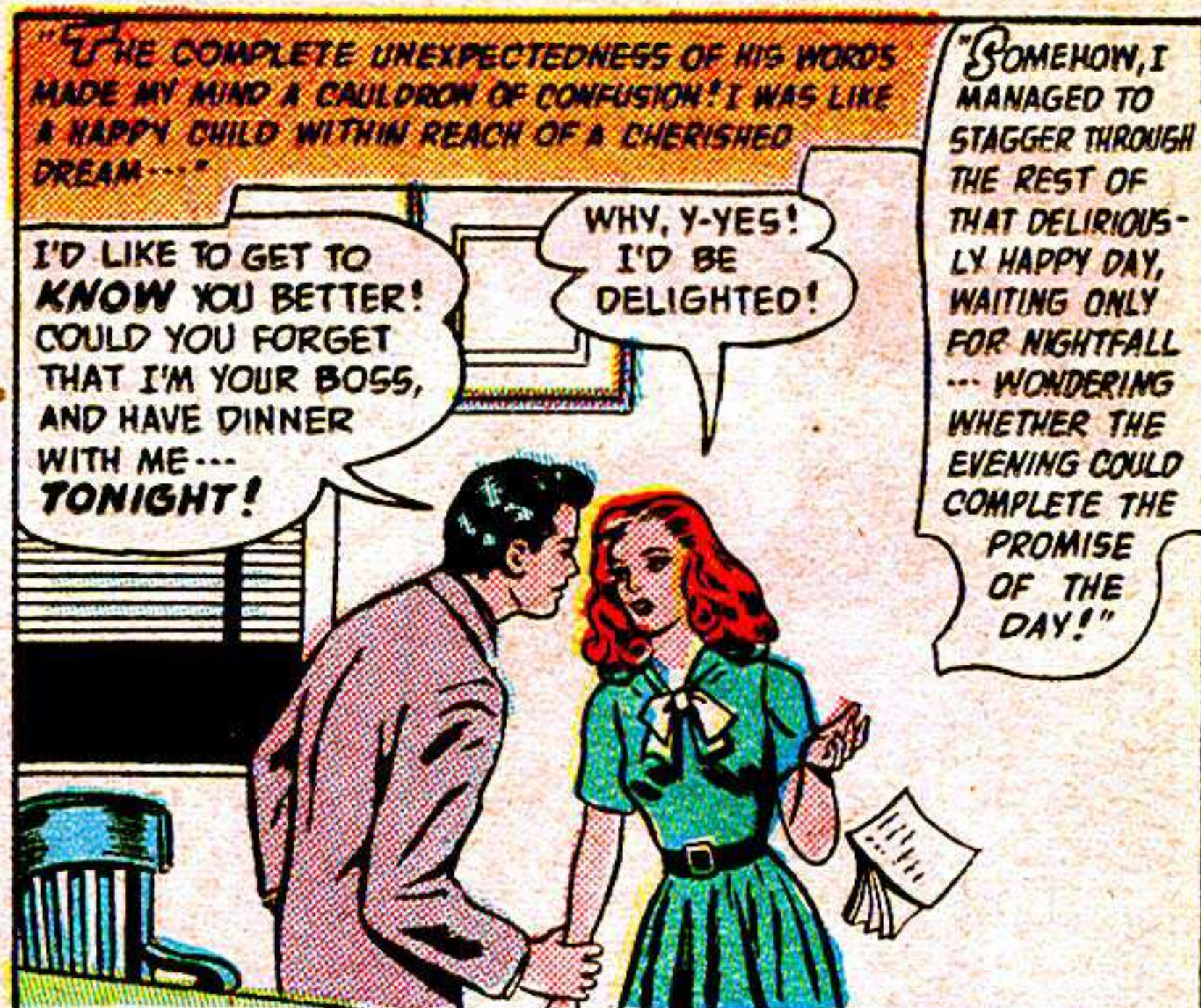


"**E**NTERING STEVE'S OFFICE, I FELT MY PULSE RACE WITH ANTICIPATION..."

M-MORNING, MR. TROY! READY YET FOR DICTATION?

SIT DOWN, MISS BREEN... THERE'S SOMETHING **MORE IMPORTANT** I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!





YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE BIG BOARD MEETING TOMORROW---IT'S TOO LATE FOR DETAILS NOW! I NEED A GIRL I CAN TRUST COMPLETELY--- THAT'S WHERE **YOU** FIT IN!

I-I'M VERY FLATTERED, STEVE! HOW COULD I POSSIBLY REFUSE TO HELP **NOW**?



"THE NEXT MORNING---IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MIRACLE PICTURES---"

GENTLEMEN, OUR FIRM HAS A LOT OF DOUGH TIED UP IN **RON BRADFORD**, AND, FRANKLY, HIS BOX OFFICE APPEAL **NOW** IS HITTING ZERO! THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO SLANT HIS PUBLICITY BUILD-UP IN A **VERY UNUSUAL WAY**!

SURE, STEVE, EVERYBODY KNOWS THE PUBLIC IS GETTING FED UP WITH BRADFORD AND HIS DIZZY CIRCLE OF GLAMOUR-PUSSES!



THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I WANT TO USE A **NEW APPROACH**, J.B.! YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IN A MINUTE! LAURA, WILL YOU STEP OVER HERE?

CERTAINLY, MR. TROY!



"I WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! STEVE SUDDENLY EMBRACED ME, PRESSED HIS LIPS AGAINST MINE---AN INADVERTENTLY---I RESPONDED, MY HEART RACING FAST!"



"YES, MY LOVE FOR STEVE, UNEXPRESSED UNTIL THAT EXQUISITE MOMENT, BURST FORTH! I CLUNG TO HIM, FORGETTING WHERE I WAS---"

WOW--- WHAT A CLINCH!

VERY NICE, STEVE ---BUT WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH **RON BRADFORD**?



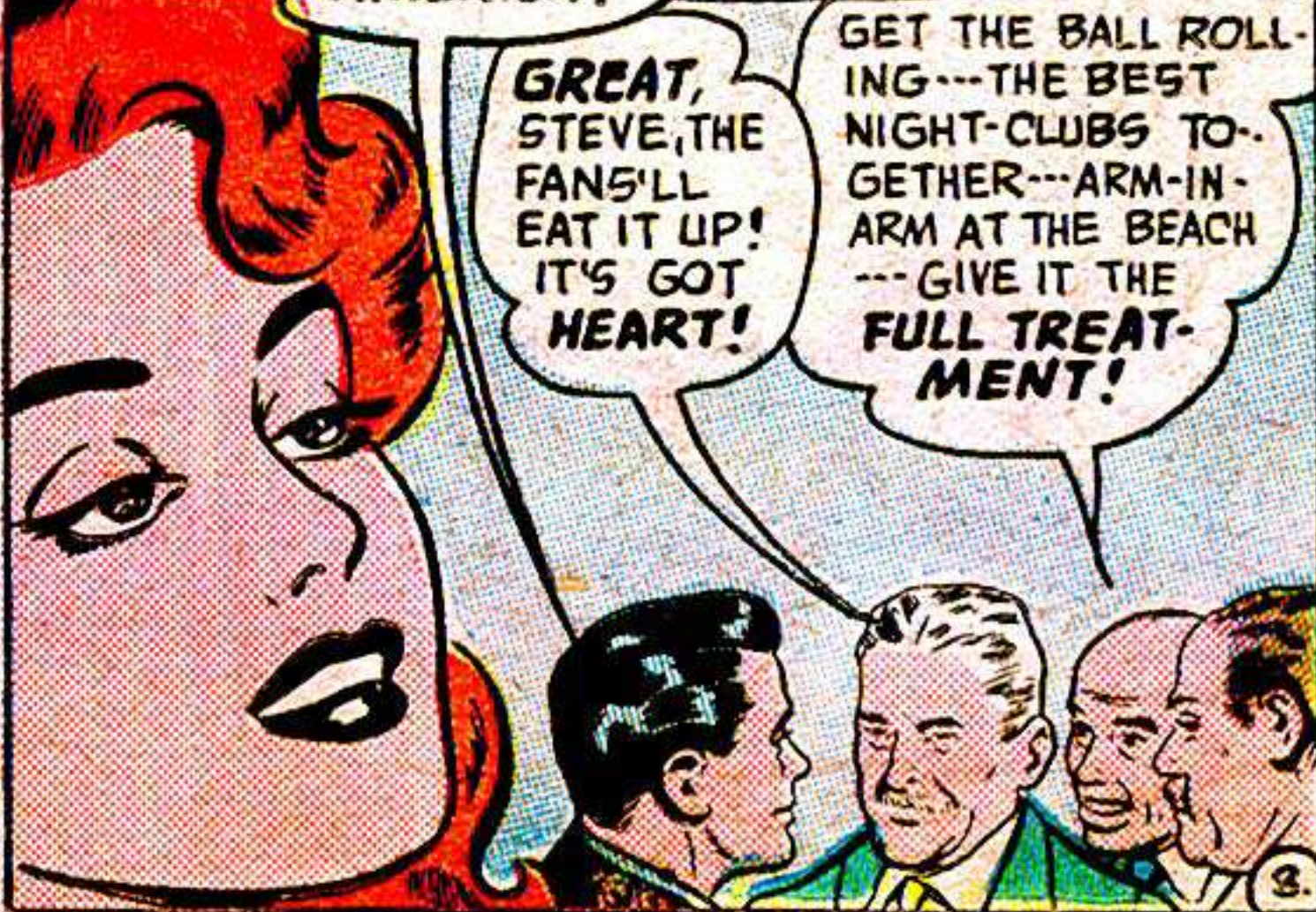
YOUR ANSWER, J.B., IS ON MISS BREEN'S FACE! LOOK AT THOSE SHINING EYES, THE FLUSH ON HER CHEEKS! HERE'S NO MADE-UP, CELLULOID CINDERELLA ---SHE'S **MISS AMERICAN HOME-GIRL**! SHE REPRESENTS WHAT MILLIONS OF FANS ARE TRYING TO BE!



NOW, GENTLEMEN, MERELY SUBSTITUTE BRADFORD FOR **ME** AND YOU'VE GOT THE IDEA! WHEN HE MAKES LOVE TO OUR LITTLE MISS NOBODY, HE'LL BE REACHING **EVERY FEMALE HEART IN AMERICA**!

GREAT, STEVE, THE FANS'LL EAT IT UP! IT'S GOT **HEART**!

GET THE BALL ROLLING---THE BEST NIGHT-CLUBS TO-GETHER---ARM-IN-ARM AT THE BEACH ---GIVE IT THE **FULL TREATMENT**!



"STEVE'S COLDLY CALCULATING PLAN STUNNED ME! AFTER THE BIG WIGS LEFT, MY LACERATED FEELINGS BURST FORTH--"

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LAURA? I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A HAPPY OCCASION FOR YOU! IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO--

GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU HEARTLESS MONSTER! HAVEN'T YOU HUMILIATED ME ENOUGH?



THAT WAS A CHEAP, ROTTEN TRICK! IF I'D SUSPECTED THAT YOU PLANNED TO PARADE MY FEELINGS IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE MEN, I'D NEVER HAVE--

HOLD ON, LAURA! YOU'VE GOT THIS ALL WRONG!



IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THE ONLY REASON YOU WERE SO NICE TO ME LAST NIGHT WAS THAT YOU WANTED ME FOR A PUPPET IN YOUR FILTHY SCHEME! AND I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO BELIEVE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU SAID!

STOP IT, YOU LITTLE FOOL! I MEANT EVERY WORD I SAID TO YOU! BUT THIS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT-- THIS IS BUSINESS!



"AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD FLARED, THE STORM IN MY SOUL SUBSIDED! I WAS EMPTY INSIDE NOW, NOT WANTING TO FIGHT ANYMORE--"

YOU MUST BELIEVE WHAT I'M SAYING--IT'S IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF US! COME, DARLING, A BREATH OF FRESH AIR MAY DO US BOTH GOOD!



"I HAD NO WILL OF MY OWN THEN! SOON, PARKED IN A LOVELY SPOT NEAR THE BLUE PACIFIC, STEVE WHISPERED TO ME, GENTLY, LOVINGLY--"

DARLING, LISTEN TO ME--I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D REACT THIS WAY! THERE WAS NOTHING DISHONEST IN WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, AND WE MUSTN'T LET IT STAND BETWEEN US! AFTER OFFICE HOURS, YOU'RE MY GIRL!



"UNDER THE SINCERITY OF STEVE'S WARM VOICE, MY BITTERNESS MELTED! SUDDENLY, I FORGOT ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT THAT STEVE WAS CLOSE TO ME-- TERRIBLY, EXCITINGLY CLOSE!"

I--I GUESS I'M JUST MIXED UP! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE!

THEN TRUST ME, LAURA! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! WHATEVER HAPPENS, REMEMBER THAT--AND THIS!



"IN EACH OTHERS ARMS--LOST IN THE ECSTASY OF OUR WILD EMBRACE, IT WAS AS IF ONLY WE EXISTED IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD! THEN I KNEW-- MY MIND COULD DOUBT STEVE TROY--BUT NEVER MY HEART!"



WAS THAT THE KISS OF A MAN TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF YOU? ARE YOU STILL AFRAID TO TRUST ME, DARLING?

OH, NO... NO, STEVE! I'VE BEEN A BLIND, UNREASONING CHILD! I'LL NEVER QUESTION YOUR MOTIVES AGAIN!

"WITH OUR MIS-UNDERSTANDING A THING OF THE PAST, STEVE AND I TOOK A NEW LEASE ON LOVE! NOW HIS ALL-IMPORTANT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR ROD BRADFORD COULD CONTINUE! I WAS READY TO AID HIM---A WILLING SACRIFICE TO THE WORLD OF NEWS-PRINT AND MICROPHONE!"

"THE NEXT DAY, STEVE INTRODUCED ME TO RON BRADFORD, THE FADING SCREEN IDOL, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET---TO THE DELIGHT OF FIFTY MILLION MOVIE FANS!"

SO YOU'RE LAURA BREEN! WELL, WELL, AND I THOUGHT I WAS BEING THROWN TO SOME KNOCK-KNEED, LAME-BRAINED SHE-WOLF!

BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO---THERE'S PLENTY OF WORK TO DO!

YOU'VE GOT A DATE TO WATCH THE TENNIS MATCHES THIS AFTERNOON! I'LL GET THE RUMOR FACTORY BUSY AT THIS END!

YOU WON'T HEAR ME COMPLAINING, STEVE---NOT WITH COMPANY LIKE THIS!

"RON AND I PLUNGED INTO THE FLICKER CITY'S SOCIAL WHIRL WITH A SPLASH, AS STEVE'S CAMPAIGN PROGRESSED LIKE A WELL-PLANNED BATTLE!"

Daily Review ROMANCE FOR RON?



The film capitol is agog over the reported romance of Ron Bradford, handsome leading man and Laura Breen, pretty Cinderella girl from the offices of Miracle Pictures...

The morning Journal BREEN AND BRADFORD BLAZING



EVERY WOMAN IN AMERICA IS WATCHING WITH BATED BREATH THE ROMANCE OF LITTLE MISS NO-BODY, LAURA BREEN, AND MIRACLE PICTURE'S RON BRADFORD! THE COUPLE ARE SHOWN AT...

EVENING NEWS POPULAR PAIR PICKS PONIES



LAURA BREEN AND RON BRADFORD HAVE BECOME AS INSEPARABLE AS ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA! RELIABLE SOURCES PREDICT ORANGE BLOSSOMS AND WEDDING BELLS FOR HOLLYWOOD'S MOST ELEGIBLE BACHELOR WHEN...

"TWO WEEKS HAD PASSED IN THIS WHIRLWIND, PUBLICITY ROMANCE! AND NOT HAVING BEEN ALONE WITH STEVE ONCE IN ALL-THAT TIME, I DECIDED TO SURPRISE HIM ONE DAY..."

STEVE, DARLING! WHY, WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK TOO PLEASED TO SEE ME!

OF COURSE I AM, LAURA! BUT AFTER ALL, THIS IS A BUSINESS OFFICE, NOT THE MOCAMBO! I HAPPEN TO BE VERY BUSY AT THE MOMENT!



"I HAD EXPECTED A WARMER RECEPTION THAN THIS FROM THE MAN I LOVED! EVEN IF HE WAS BUSY, I DIDN'T SEE HOW HE COULD SO COMPLETELY STIFLE ALL FEELING FOR ME! HE COULDN'T---NOT IF HE REALLY LOVED ME!"

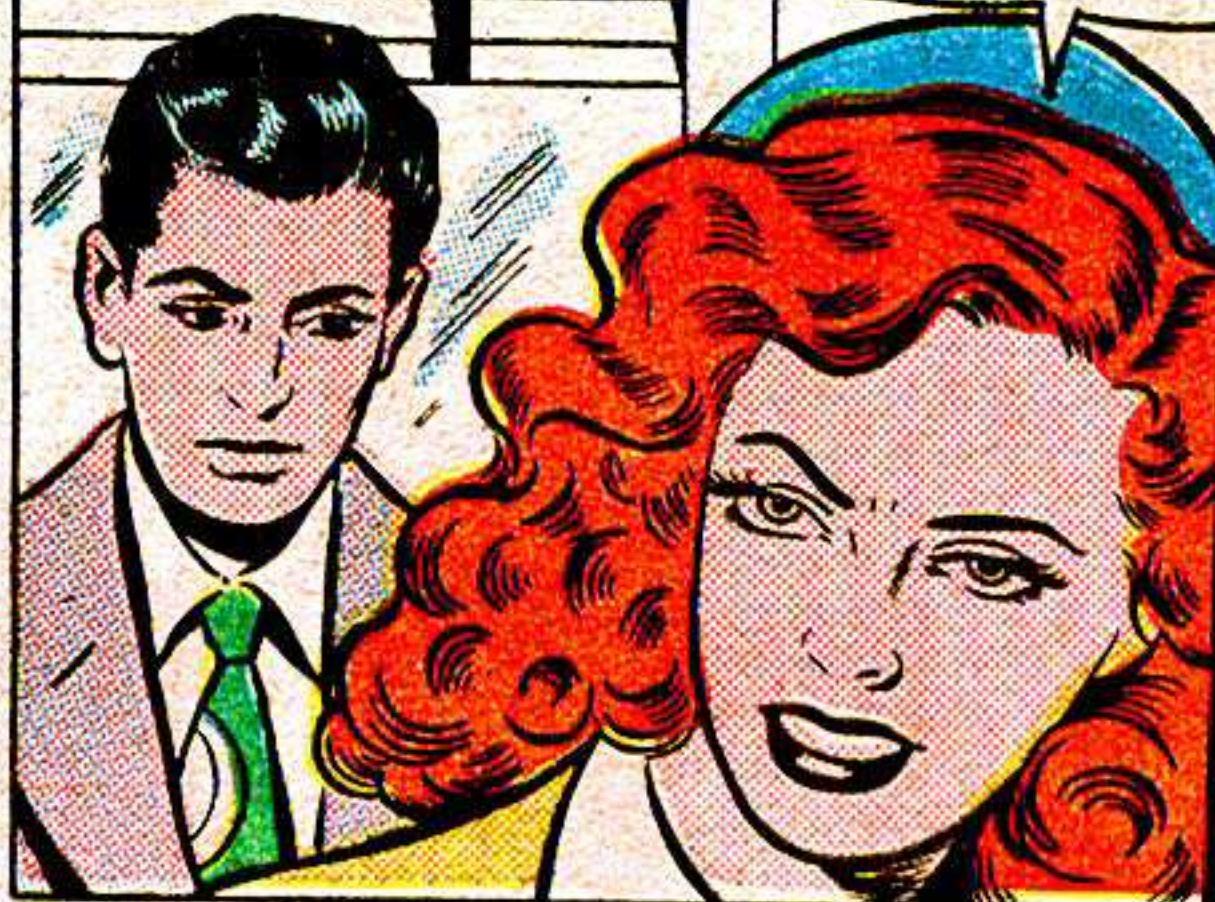
I'VE GOT A MILLION DETAILS TO ATTEND TO TODAY! BESIDES, AREN'T YOU AND RON SCHEDULED FOR A COCKTAIL PARTY RIGHT NOW?

OF COURSE, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D ENJOY A CHAT WITH ME BEFORE I RUSHED OFF TO THE DIZZY GRIND!



MIRACLE'S PAYING US TO DO A JOB, LAURA--- AND ON THAT JOB, I'M ALL BUSINESS!

THANK YOU, MISTER TROY, FOR REMINDING ME OF MY DUTY! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF WASTING YOUR PRECIOUS TIME! GOODBYE!



"AS THE DAYS PASSED, MY RESENTMENT OVER STEVE'S INDIFFERENCE BEGAN TO FADE! I WANTED TO BE WITH HIM ALONE---TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT EVERYTHING WAS THE SAME BETWEEN US! SO---"

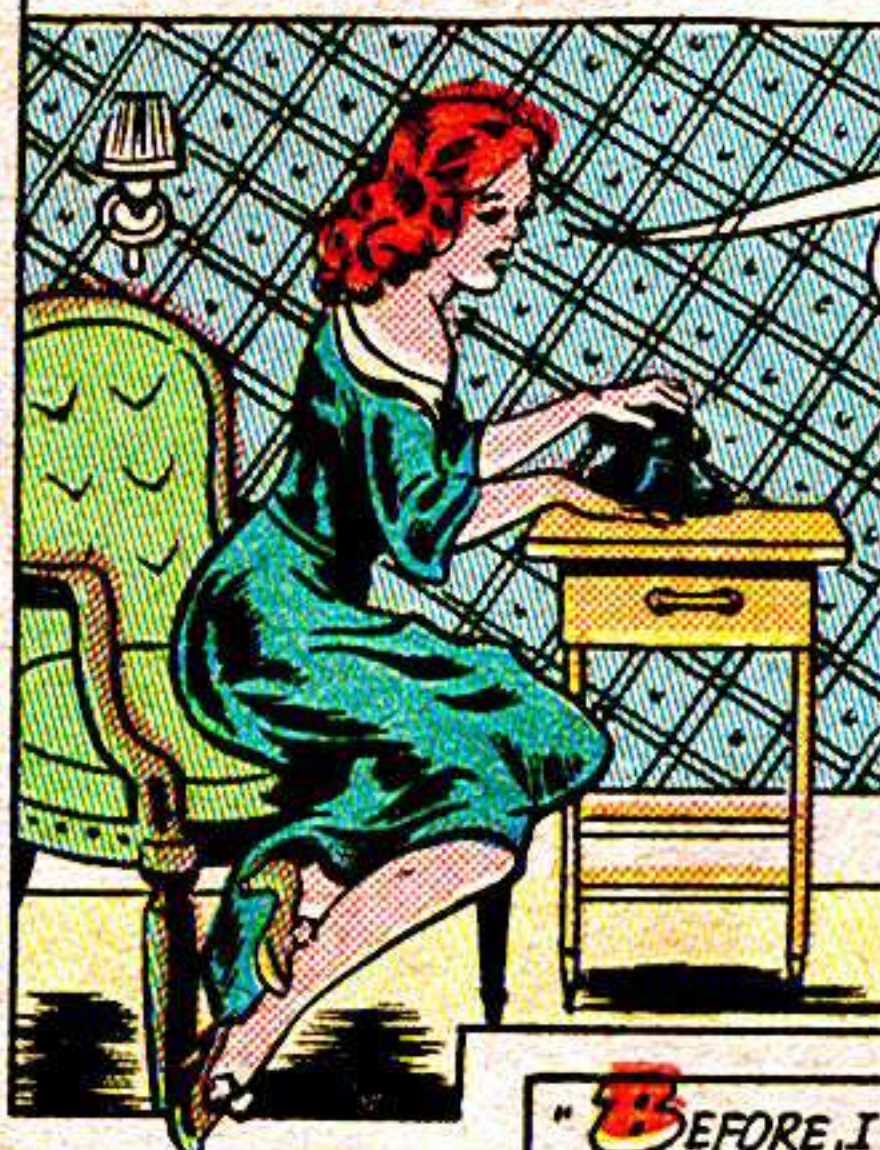
STEVE, DEAR, I **MUST** TALK TO YOU! HOW ABOUT DINNER AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?

I'D LOVE TO, LAURA, BUT RON'S TAKING YOU TO AN IMPORTANT PREMIERE! WE'VE GOT YOU BOOKED SOLID FOR THE WHOLE WEEK! YOU AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO **WAIT!**



"HUNGER BEGAN GNAWING AT MY HEART! THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT---HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ME HAD CHANGED! I WAS ONLY A PAWN IN HIS ENDLESS PUBLICITY SCHEMES!"

ALL RIGHT, MISTER MIRACLE-MAN, I'LL **SHOW YOU!** I'M GETTING TIRED OF BEING TREATED LIKE A TRAINED SEAL!



"THE MORE I THOUGHT OF STEVE'S COLD DETACHMENT, THE MORE CONVINCED I BECAME THAT HE HAD BEEN DECEIVING ME FROM THE START! NOW I WANTED TO MAKE **HIM** SUFFER! THAT NIGHT---"

STEP ON IT, HONEY, WE'RE DUE AT THAT OPENING IN TWENTY MINUTES! CAN'T KEEP OUR PUBLIC WAITING, YOU KNOW!

RON, COULDN'T WE SKIP THIS AFFAIR TONIGHT? MAYBE SPEND A QUIET EVENING TOGETHER, JUST THE TWO OF US---



"RON WASN'T DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE! AFTER DINNER, TO FURTHER THE SCHEME WHICH HAD FORMED IN MY REVENGE-HUNGRY HEART, I WAS ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY---"

YOU AMAZE ME, LAURA! YOU'RE A COMPLETELY **DIFFERENT** WOMAN TONIGHT! YOU USED TO BE SO **REMOTE!**

AFTER ALL---**NOW** I'M NOT PLAYING A PART FOR CAMERAMEN AND REPORTERS!



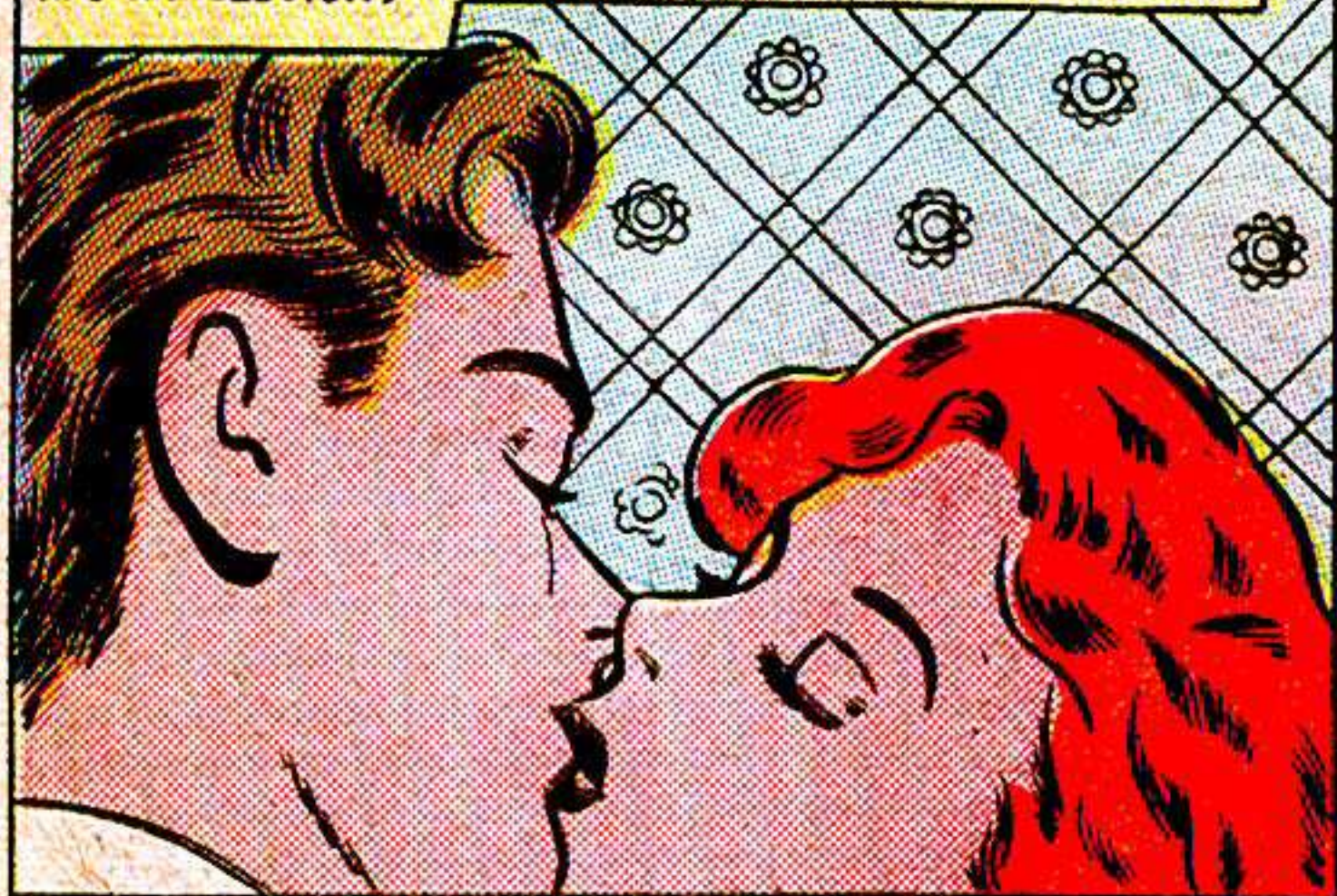
"BEFORE, I HAD BRUSQUELY REJECTED ALL OF RON'S ADVANCES! BUT NOW, I **WANTED** TO ATTRACT HIM---AND TO MY AMAZEMENT, I FOUND HIS ARDOR ATTRACTING **ME**---STRONGLY---

LAURA---DARLING---EVER SINCE WE MET I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU---I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU---

I'VE BEEN A FOOL TO THROW MYSELF AT STEVE'S FEET! WHY---WHY **SHOULDN'T** I---



"I FELT THE GROUND SWEEP FROM UNDER ME! TO MY LOVE-FAMISHED HEART, KINDLED BY RON'S SEARING LIPS, THIS WAS THE ONLY THING THAT WAS REAL! ALL ELSE HAD BEEN A SHAM AND AN ILLUSION!"



DARLING, I NEVER WANT TO LOSE YOU! WE'VE GOT TO BE TOGETHER ... ALWAYS!

YES, RON, YES!



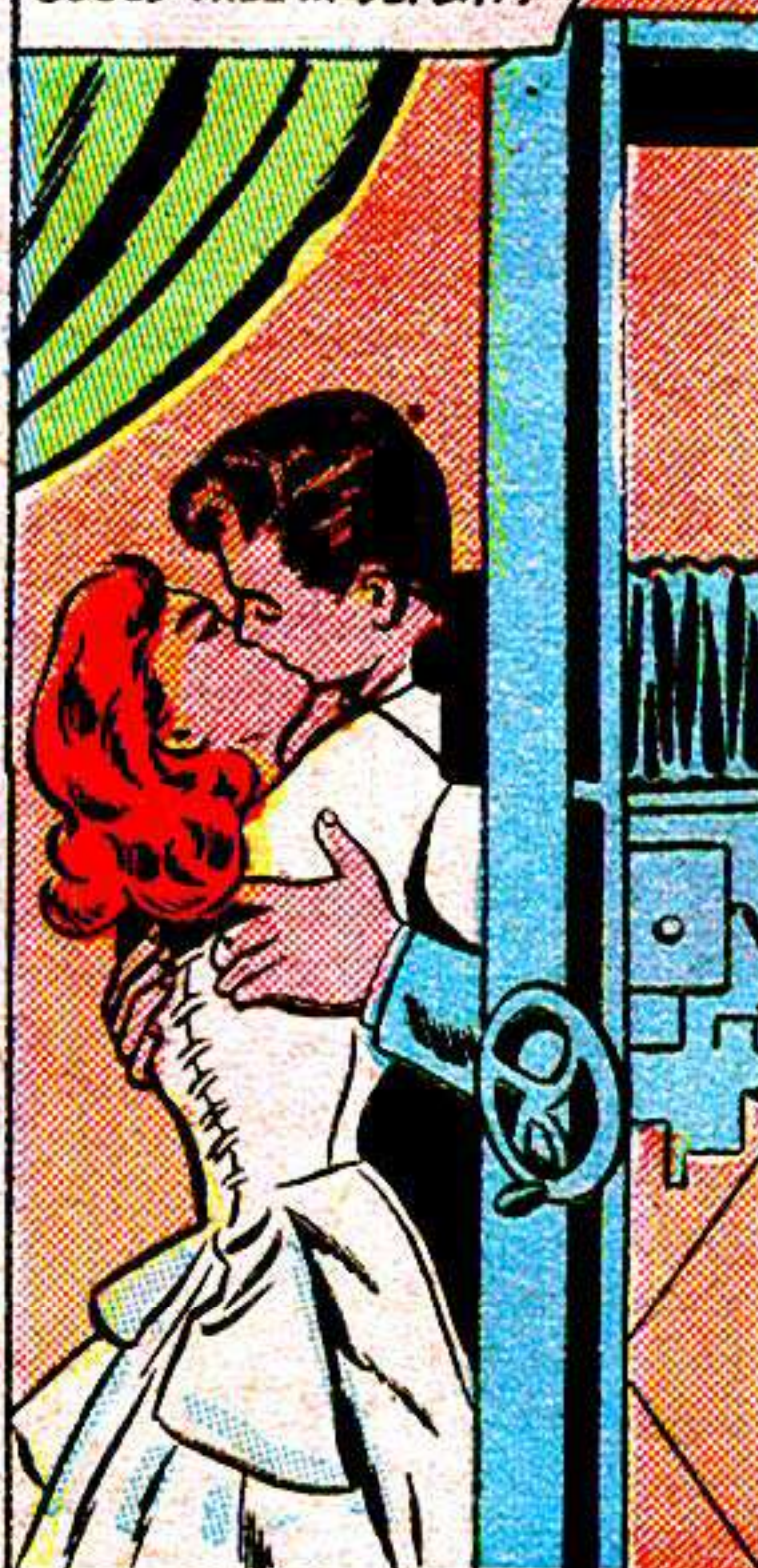
"BY THE NEXT DAY, LIFE HAD TAKEN ON A NEW, UNEXPECTED MEANING! RON HAD FORCED STEVE FROM MY HEART! THEN, AT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S ----"

LAURA, I'VE GOT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING BEFORE THEY START SNAPPING THOSE BLASTED STILLS! JUST SAY THE WORD AND WE'LL ELOPE TO LAS VEGAS TOMORROW!

OKAY, DARLING... I'LL GIVE YOU THE WORD... YES!

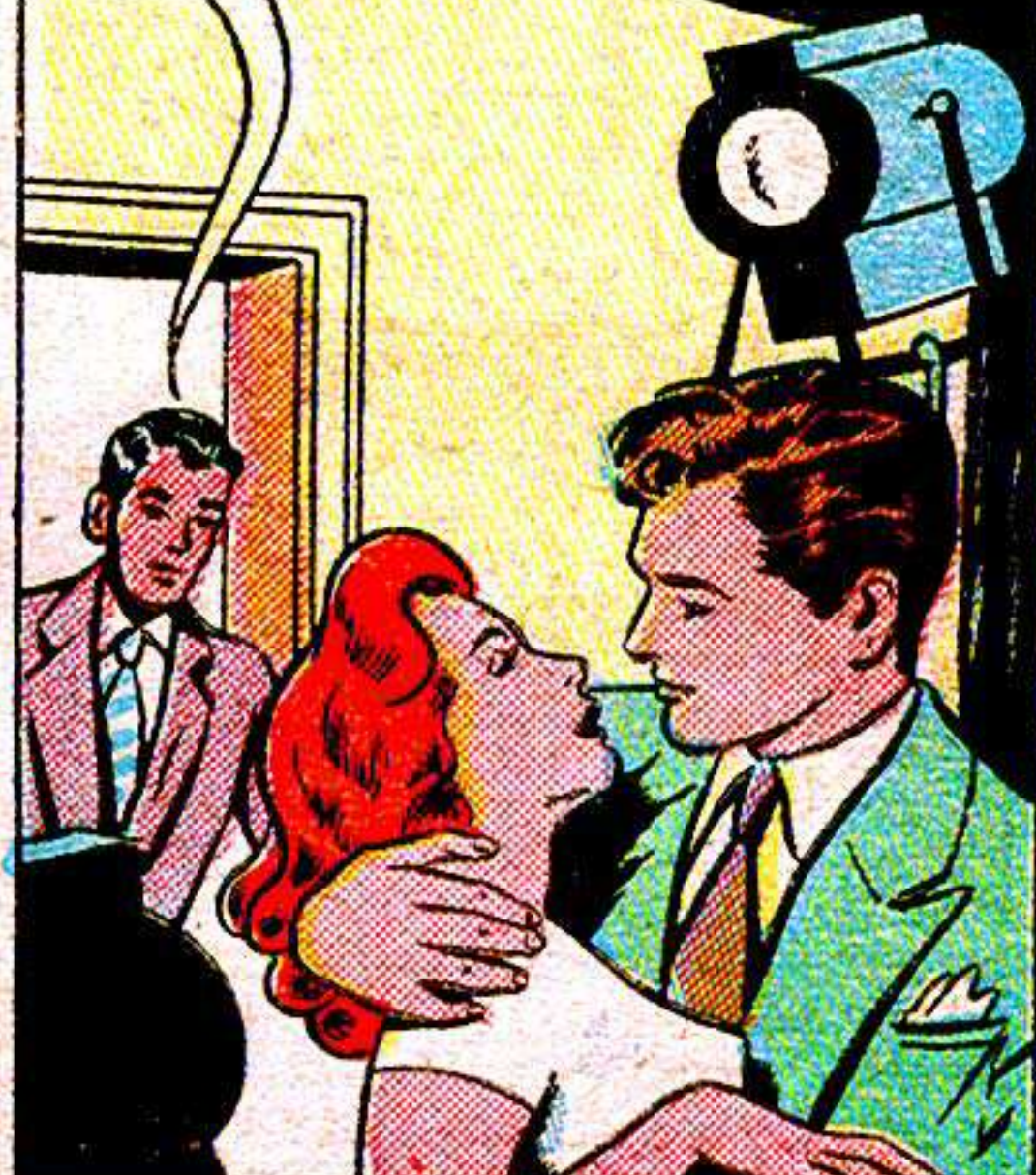


"THIS WAS MY SUPREME MOMENT! NOW STEVE... THE WHOLE STUPID CAMPAIGN... COULD FALL IN DEFEAT!"



"AS WE STOOD THERE, OBLIVIOUS TO EVERYTHING BUT OUR OWN HAPPINESS ----"

HEY, YOU TWO... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I DON'T HEAR ANY CAMERAS CLICKING!



STEVE... YOU CAN BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE US! LAURA AND I ARE FLYING TO LAS VEGAS TO GET MARRIED!

IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE, RON? IT'LL KILL OUR WHOLE PUBLICITY BUILD-UP!



"I GLOATED SILENTLY! THIS WOULD BE ONE LESSON MISTER TROY WOULD LONG REMEMBER!"

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT HERE, STEVE! THIS IS IT FOR LAURA AND ME!

OKAY, LOVER-BOY, HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY! BUT I'D THINK TWICE ABOUT THIS, RON... AND YOU, TOO, LAURA!



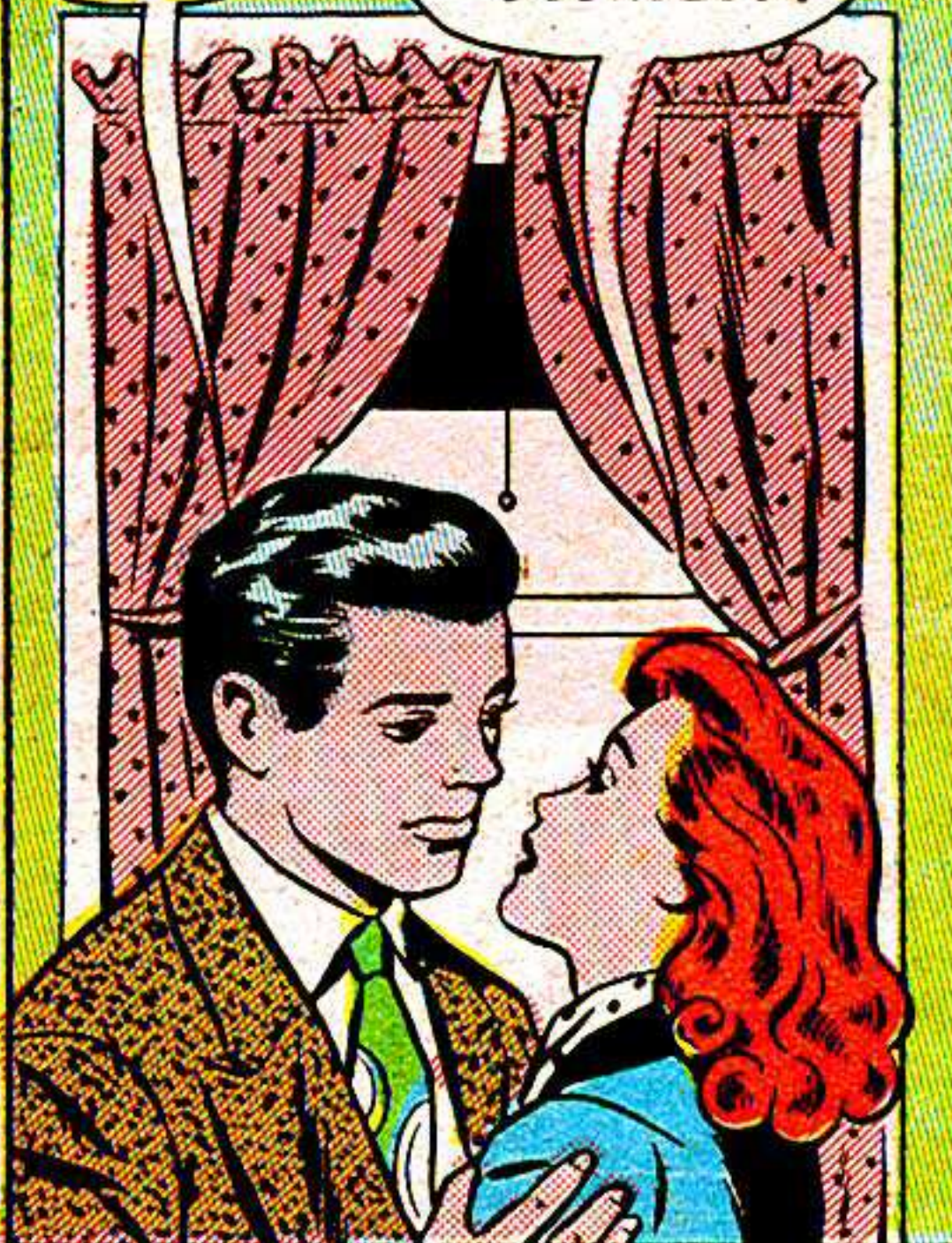
"RON HAD ARRANGED FOR US TO TAKE THE TEN O'CLOCK PLANE THE NEXT MORNING! AS I PACKED, STEVE WALKED IN, SOLEMN AND BROODING..."

LAURA, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO **REASON!** RON DOESN'T KNOW **REAL** LOVE FROM CELLULOID! YOU'RE THROWING YOURSELF AWAY ON A PROFESSIONAL SCREEN-LOVER! **WHY?**



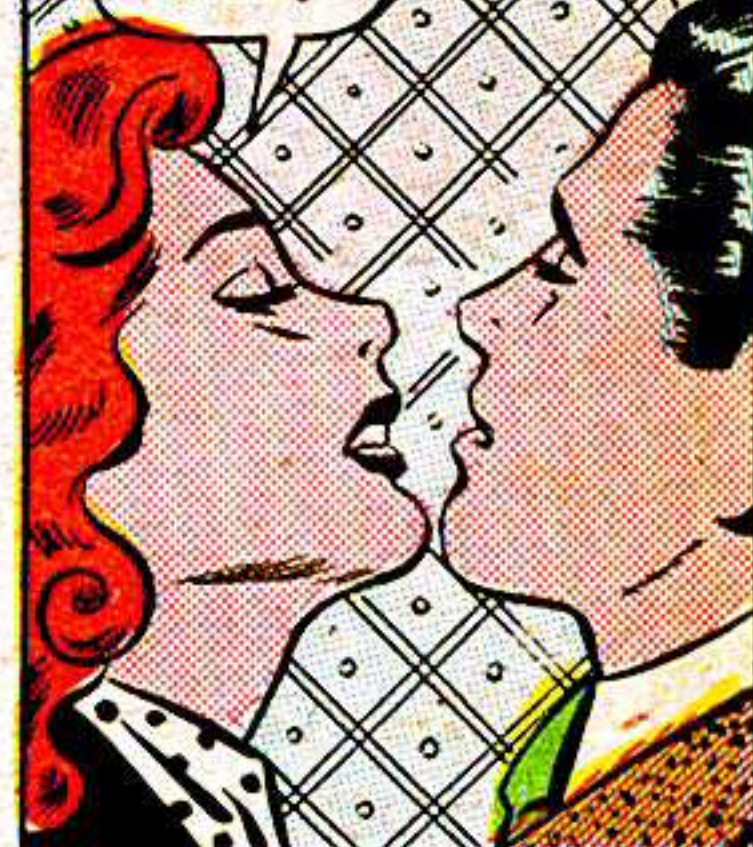
WHAT ABOUT **OUR** LOVE? CAN YOU FORGET **THAT** SO SOON?

OUR LOVE? YOU KILLED IT... YOU AND YOUR HAIR-BRAINED SCHEMES! THE ONLY THING **YOU'RE** INTERESTED IN IS **BUSINESS!**



YOU'RE MY BUSINESS, LAURA! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT BRADFORD'S RUN OUT ON HALF THE WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA? WHAT'S BEHIND THIS IDIOTIC ELOPEMENT?

REVENGE ON A FOOL NAMED **STEVE TROY!** NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN TO HAVE HIS PUBLICITY SCHEME BACKFIRE IN HIS FACE!



REVENGE? ARE YOU THROWING YOURSELF AWAY ON THAT CONCEITED HAM JUST TO SHOW **ME** UP? LAURA... HE DOESN'T GIVE A HOOT FOR ANYTHING BUT HIS CAREER!

HE CARES ENOUGH TO BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE **EVERYTHING** FOR ME... AND I LOVE HIM! NOW **GET OUT OF MY LIFE!**



"**DESPITE** MYSELF, STEVE'S WORDS HAD SHAKEN MY RESOLUTION! **WAS** I DELUDING MYSELF ABOUT MY LOVE FOR RON... USING HIM ONLY TO SPITE THE MAN I HAD ONCE ADORED? I THRUST THE GNAWING DOUBTS FROM MY MIND! RON... AND ROMANCE... WERE WAITING!"



FLIGHT TEN TO LAS VEGAN... LEAVING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

THAT'S US, DREAM GIRL! WE'D BETTER GET ABOARD!

YES, RON... BUT WAIT! HERE COMES STEVE...



HERE'S THE GREATEST BREAK OF YOUR CAREER, RON! IMAGINE GETTING AN OFFER TO ACT OPPOSITE **HELGA STORM**, THE SWEDISH STAR, IN A **SUPER EPIC!**

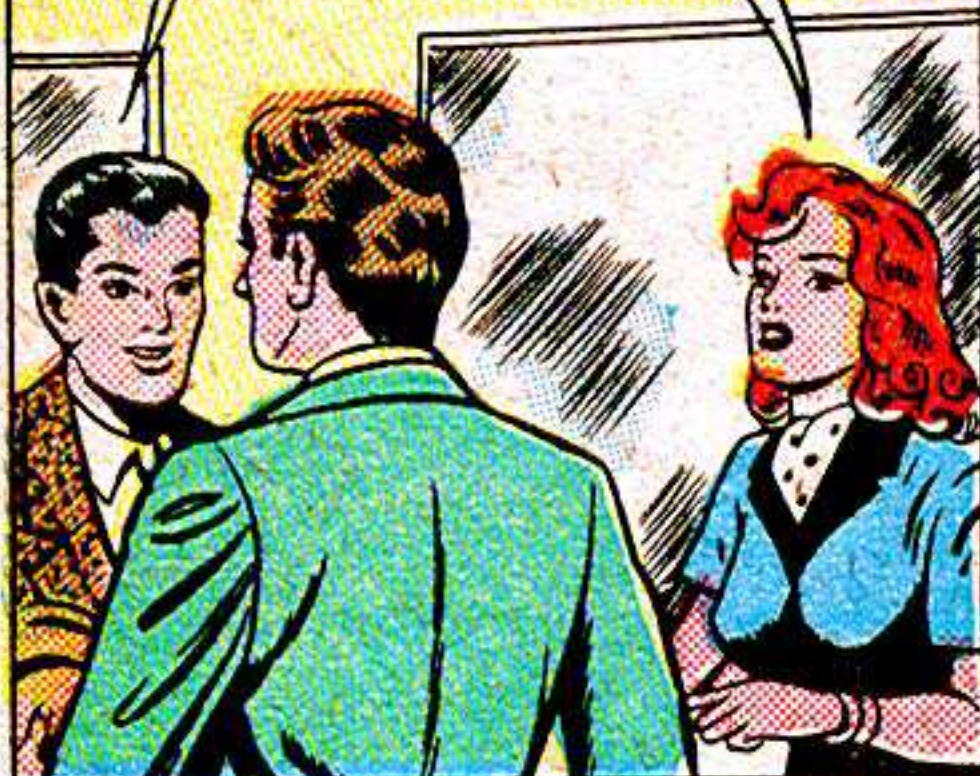
HELGA STORM? LET ME SEE THAT TELEGRAM, STEVE!



"THEY JABBERED AWAY AS THOUGH I DIDN'T EXIST! WATCHING RON'S FACE, I REALIZED I HAD TO DO SOMETHING... **FAST!**"

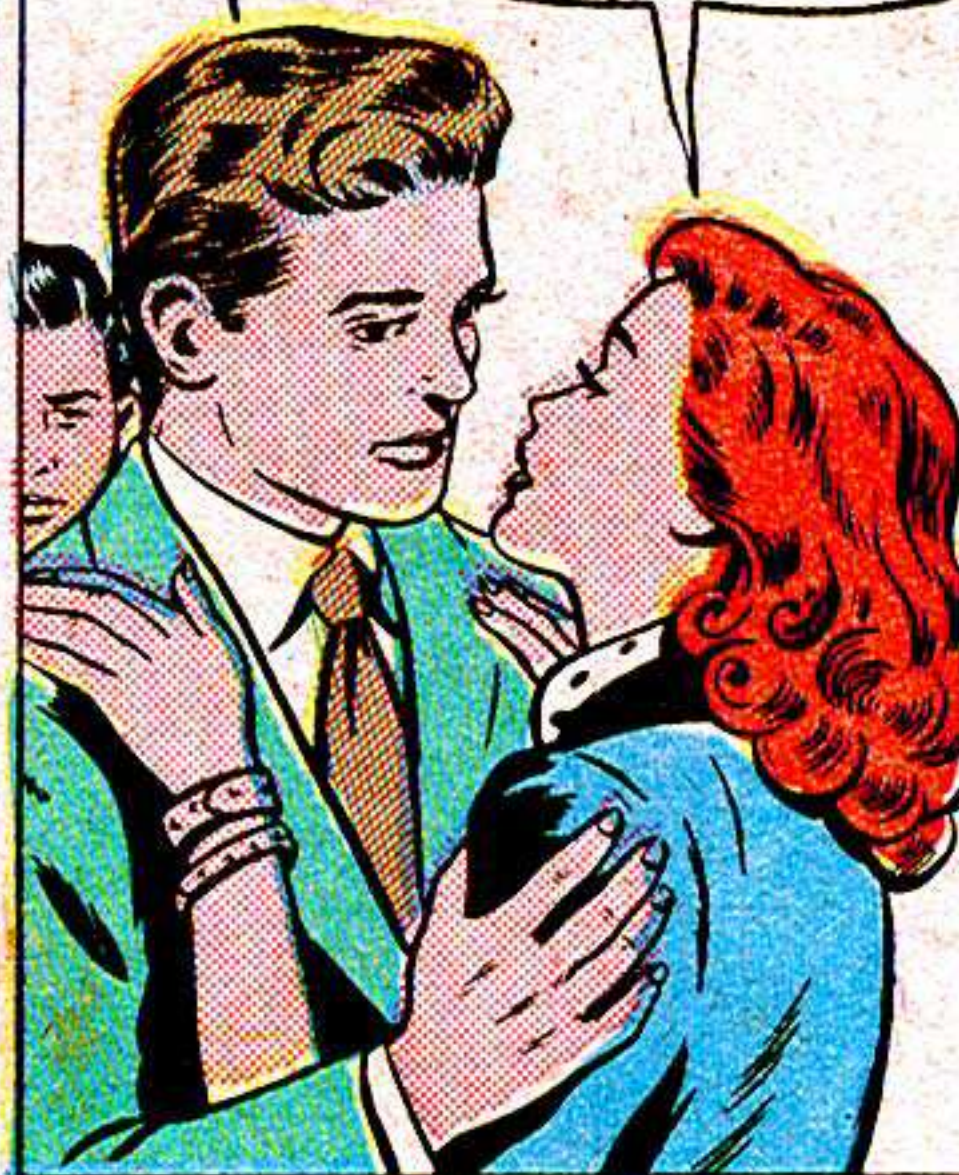
IT'LL MEAN A STEPPED-UP PUBLICITY SPREAD FOR **YOU**, RON! THE BIG BOSS, SAM MAYO, WANTS TO SEE YOU AT ONCE!

RON---LISTEN TO **ME!** WE'D BETTER HURRY, OR WE'LL MISS THAT PLANE!



THIS HELGA STORM DEAL IS THE BIGGEST THING THAT **EVER** HAPPENED TO ME, DARLING! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND---

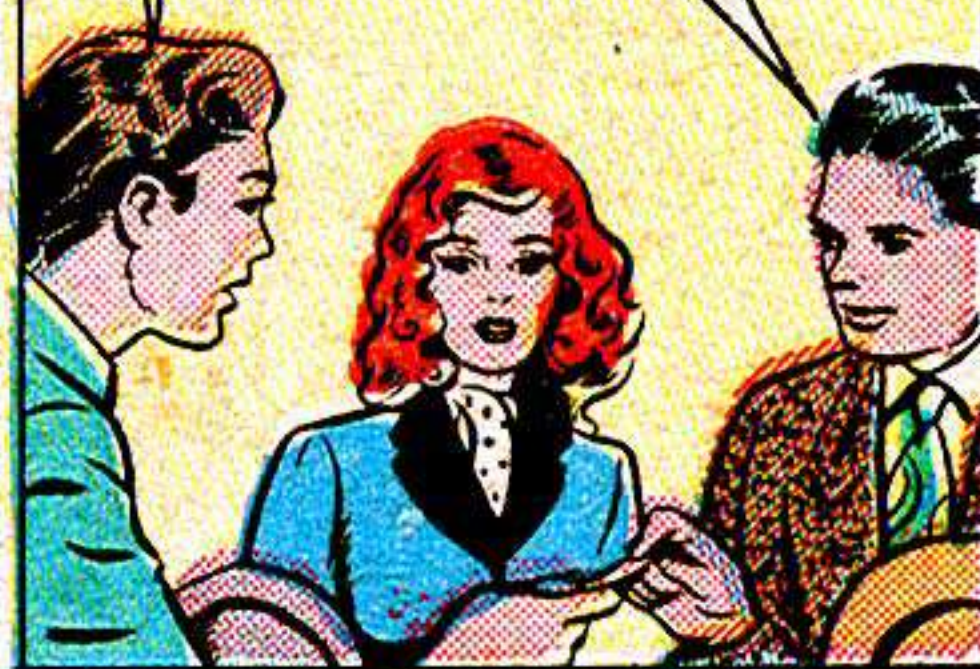
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PLANE, RON... **OUR MARRIAGE?**



"**AT FIRST**, I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HEARD---BUT IN A MOMENT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT **LOVE** WAS RUNNING A POOR SECOND TO BRADFORD'S **CAREER!** STEVE HAD BEEN **RIGHT!**"

LOOK, LAURA, WE CAN GET MARRIED **LATER**, BUT HELGA STORM---IT'S TOO BIG A DEAL TO BE DELAYED! STEVE---**YOU** TAKE CARE OF THESE TICKETS! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE STUDIO IMMEDIATELY!

DON'T WORRY, RON, I'LL TAKE CARE OF **EVERYTHING!**



"**STINGING TEARS** BLURRED MY VISION AS RON DEPARTED HURRIEDLY! ONCE AGAIN, MY HEART HAD VIED WITH A MAN'S CAREER AND HAD LOST!"

I HOPE RON ENJOYS THE **TAXI RIDE** AS MUCH AS THE **SLEIGH RIDE** I JUST GAVE HIM! MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I HAD TO HURT **YOU** FOR EVEN A MOMENT, LAURA!

FOR A **MOMENT?** YOU SEEM TO GET A MORBID THRILL OUT OF RUINING MY ENTIRE LIFE, YOU DECEITFUL---



YOU'RE WRONG, DARLING! I SACRIFICED YOU TO MY JOB **ONCE**, BUT NOT **THIS** TIME! I TRICKED RON WITH THAT PHONY TELEGRAM JUST TO SHOW YOU HOW LITTLE HE **REALLY** CARED FOR YOU!

YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN **HE** IS! BUSINESS COMES FIRST WITH **YOU**, TOO!



"**SUDDENLY**, MY TIRADE WAS STOPPED BY STEVE'S LIPS! I FOUGHT BACK---TRIED TO RESIST---BUT I FELT MYSELF BORNE ALOFT BY THE POWER IN MY SURGING SOUL! I **WAS** STEVE'S---THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT!"



"**WE** CLUNG DESPERATELY TO ONE ANOTHER, CAUGHT UP IN THE REKINDLED FLAME OF LOVE! AND WHEN STEVE SPOKE, HIS WORDS WERE THOSE MY HEART HAD LONGED TO HEAR---

THAT FAKE STORY WILL PROBABLY COST ME MY JOB AT MIRACLE, WHEN RON SCREAMS FOR MY HEAD! BUT I DON'T CARE---I'VE GOT **YOU**---AND TWO TICKETS TO LAS VEGAS! LAURA---**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

OH, STEVE---WHAT **CAN** I SAY---BUT **YES!**



Beautiful BUT RICH!

ALICIA TWINED HER arms tightly around Tom's neck and pouted, her lips temptingly close to his. "But, darling," she said plaintively, "why won't you marry me?"

Firmly, Tom disengaged himself from her arms, and sighed. There are times when life can be very trying for a young man of high principles. "I've told you before, darling...Alicia, that is," he corrected himself quickly, "I can't marry you because you're too rich!"

"Doesn't make sense," Alicia pondered. "When you forget daddy's income, you kiss me like a man who *means* marriage! What has money got to do with it?"

"People would say that I was marrying you for it, that's all!" Tom answered bitterly. "They'd compare my salary with the pin money you get from your father... to my disadvantage, need I say?"

"Forget this nonsense," Alicia commanded. "Kiss me!"

Sometimes, life could be even more trying than at other times! "No kissing," Tom said. "Forget the whole thing! Forget *me*!"

That was the last thing he said to Alicia before he read the depressing news in the society columns the following week. "She...she didn't have to forget me so *quickly*!" he thought bitterly. There was a picture of Alicia which did not do her justice, and next to it, a picture of a good-looking young man with wide shoulders and a crew haircut. Above the two pictures, the little caption read, "Soon to be married".

As Tom read about Alicia's engagement, his arms felt suddenly empty and seemed to ache with longing. The guy... who was he? Obviously some high-society type. Ellis Andrew Conrad the Fifth! Well, that was what he expected... the guy probably had lots of dough and a family tree three storeys high!

And as his arms ached emptily, his

heart seemed inclined to sink right down to his shoetops! No, he couldn't bear to think of Alicia as Mrs. Conrad the Fifth.

"Maybe I ought to take a look at this guy...see what he's like," Tom thought. He told himself it was for Alicia's benefit, to make certain she wasn't marrying the wrong man. "I could stop by at her house and return a book or something. Or wish her luck! That's it!"

The butler announced that Miss Alicia would be down in a few minutes and... would the gentleman mind waiting in the drawing room? The gentleman would not mind. In the drawing room, Tom found himself face-to-face with the young man of the picture.

"Hmmm...weak chin...bad eyes." Tom took stock as he introduced himself.

Ellis Andrew Conrad the Fifth was inclined to be talkative. Maybe the half-empty cocktail shaker on the table was the reason for that. "Gonna get married soon," he confided to Tom. "Nish girl! Pretty, too. Washn't gonna get married... but need th' dough! You unnerstan'... gen'leman getsh into shcrape...needsh money...a lotta money...findsh girl with money..."

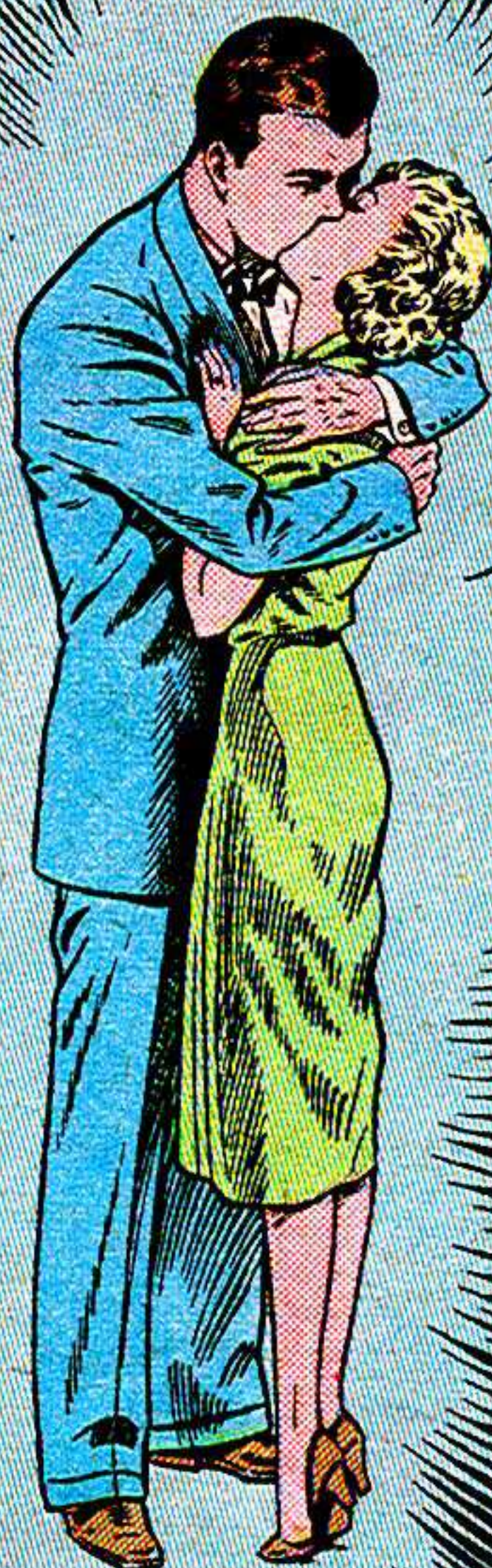
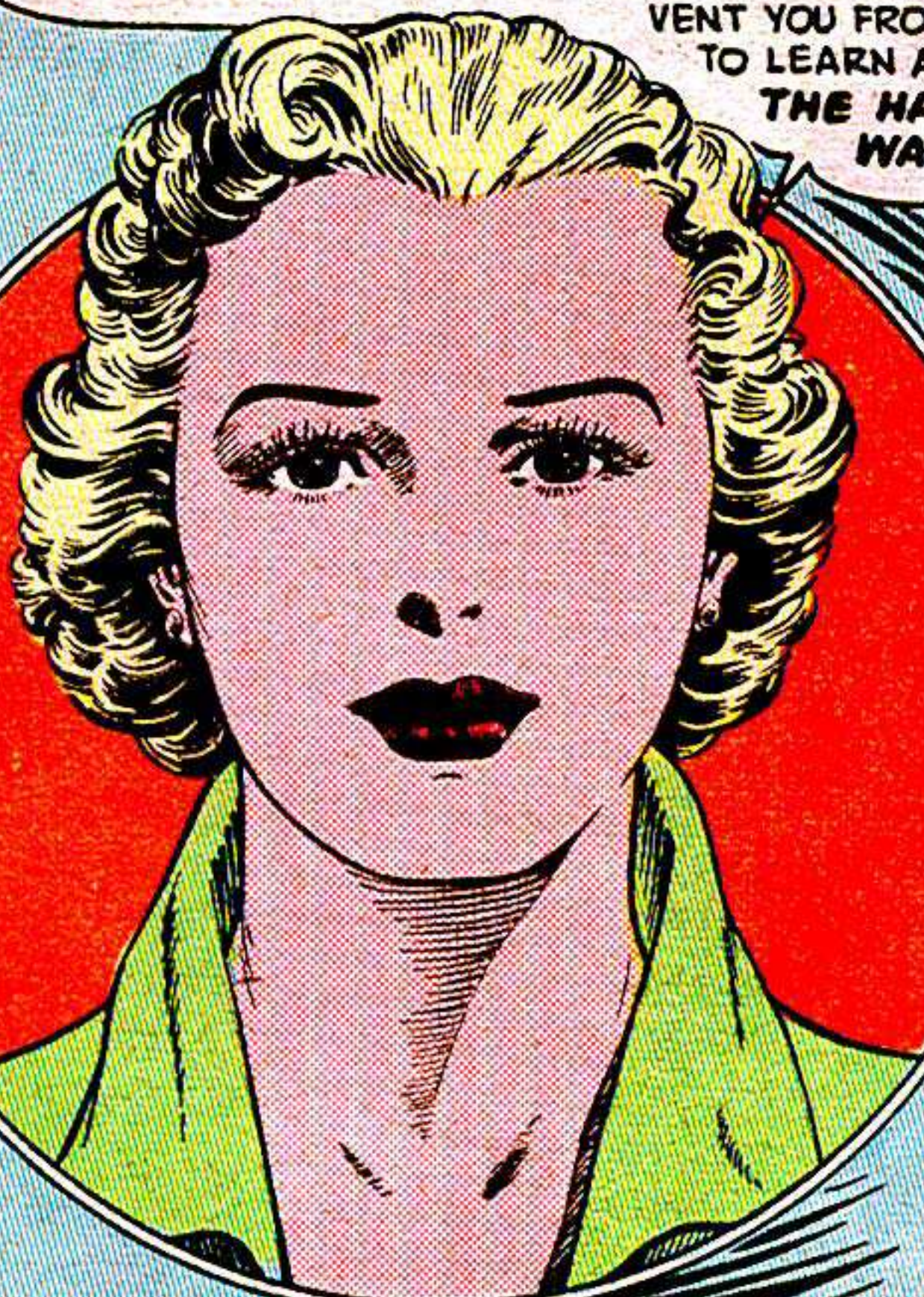
There was a yelp of pain and surprise as Ellis Andrew Conrad the Fifth's chin came into sharp contact with Tom's fist. "You no-good so-and-so!" Tom shouted, just as Alicia entered the room.

"Tom!" she gasped. "Have you gone crazy?"

"No, honey, I've never been saner! You're not marrying this guy, that's all! You're marrying *me*! I love you in spite of your old man's dough!"

His arms were no longer empty and Alicia's commanding, "Kiss me!" was entirely unnecessary. As his lips met hers, Alicia looked at the prone figure of Ellis Andrew Conrad the Fifth with gratitude. "Wait'll Tom hears he doesn't drink," she thought, "...and that he took the cup in heavyweight boxing!"

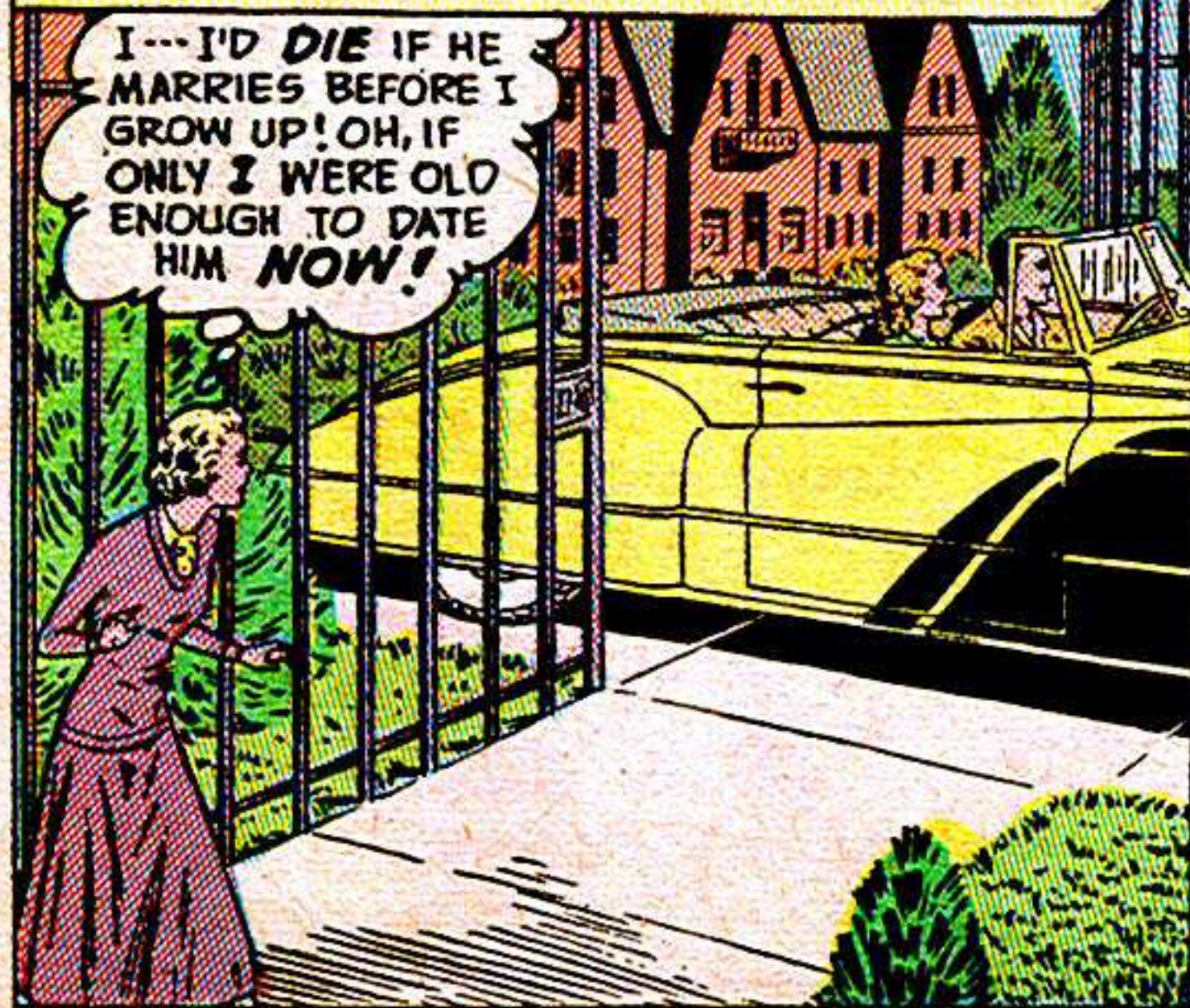
I'M TRUDY BROOKS --- A GIRL WHO'S LEARNED THE **TRUTH** ABOUT LOVE! SHOULD A GIRL **ALWAYS** BE HERSELF---EVEN IF SHE THINKS IT MEANS LOSING THE MAN OF HER DREAMS? IS VARIETY THE SPICE OF **LOVE**---AS LIFE? IF YOU WANT THE ANSWERS, READER, MY STORY MAY PREVENT YOU FROM HAVING TO LEARN AS I DID... **THE HARD WAY!**



TO **THINE OWN LOVE** ^{BE} **TRUE**

"**I**T ALL BEGAN WITH MY ADOLESCENT CRUSH ON THE MOST UNATTAINABLE BOY IN TOWN---HANDSOME, WEALTHY **ROLFE CABOT**! I HAD THE CONVICTION THAT I WOULD NEVER LOVE ANYONE ELSE..."

I---I'D **DIE** IF HE MARRIES BEFORE I GROW UP! OH, IF ONLY I WERE OLD ENOUGH TO DATE HIM **NOW!**



"**I** PRACTICALLY HAUNTED THE CABOT MANSION --- IN THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD SOMEDAY NOTICE ME AND SEE THE LOVE IN MY EYES! BUT HE WAS 21 AND I WAS 16 --- AND HE COULDN'T SEE ME FOR DUST!"

ROLFE, WHO IS THAT GIRL OUT THERE? EVERYTIME I COME HERE SHE'S HANGING AROUND, STARING AT YOU WITH THOSE GREAT BIG EYES!

WHY, THAT'S JUST A **KID**---AND I HAVEN'T BEGUN ROBBING THE CRADLE **YET!**

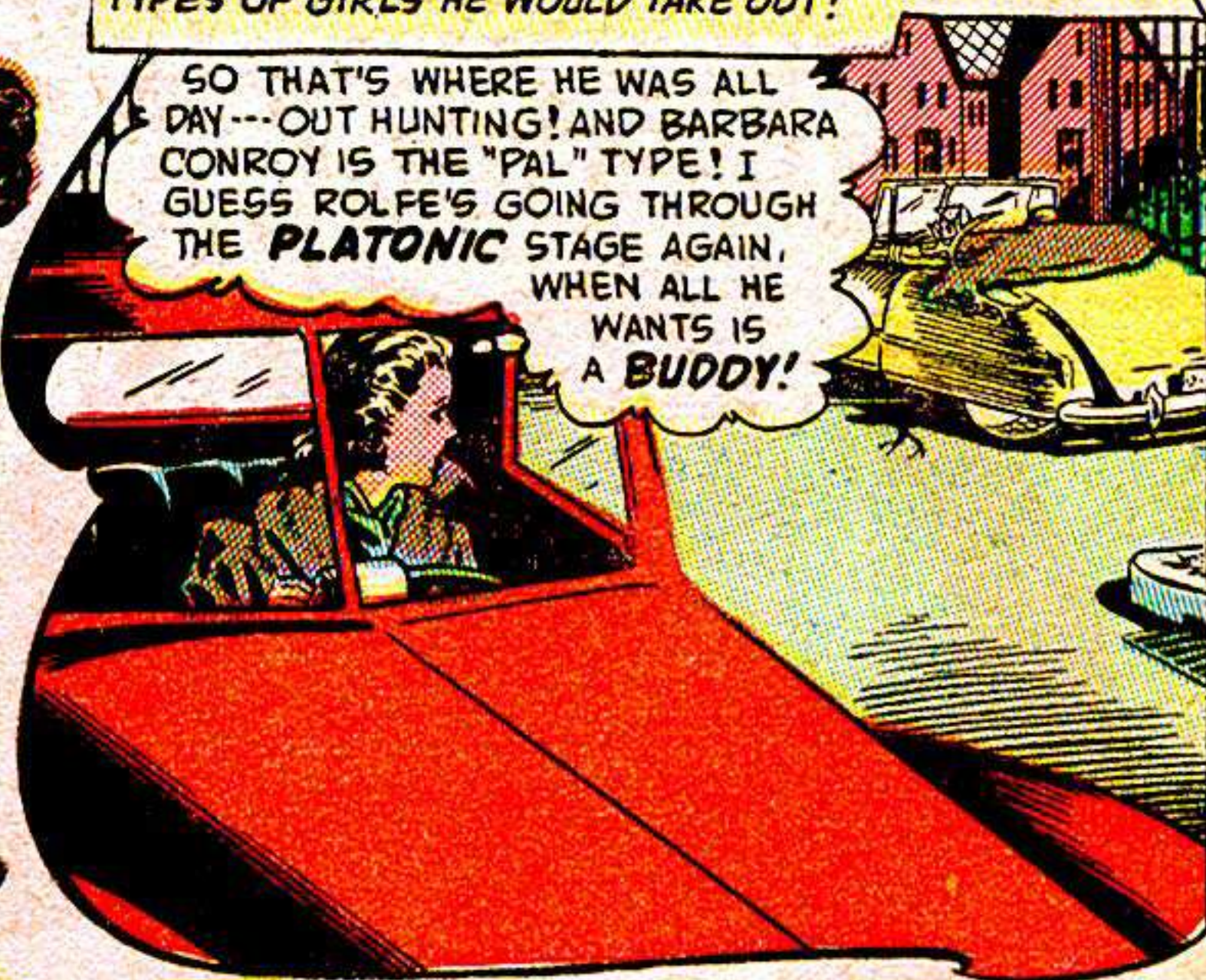


"ONE THING KEPT MY HOPES ALIVE...ROLFE CABOT NEVER ROMANCED ONE GIRL MORE THAN A FEW WEEKS! SOONER OR LATER, HE BECAME BORED WITH EACH...AND WOULD DROP HER IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER! AND AS LONG AS THAT KEPT UP, HE'D STILL BE ELIGIBLE WHEN I GREW UP!"



"I GREW OLDER...AND MORE CALCULATING! INSTEAD OF WATCHING ROLFE OPENLY, I DID IT STEALTHILY...AND BEGAN KEEPING RECORDS OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GIRLS HE WOULD TAKE OUT!"

SO THAT'S WHERE HE WAS ALL DAY...OUT HUNTING! AND BARBARA CONROY IS THE "PAL" TYPE! I GUESS ROLFE'S GOING THROUGH THE **PLATONIC** STAGE AGAIN, WHEN ALL HE WANTS IS A **BUDDY!**



"BY THE TIME I WAS 19, MY CAREFUL NOTES AND RECORDS BEGAN PAYING OFF...BECAUSE I FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS A DEFINITE **PATTERN** TO ROLFE'S DATES!"

FIRST HE'S ATTRACTED BY THE ALOOF, "TOUCH-ME-NOT" TYPE... THEN HE GOES ON TO COQUETTISH, TEASING GIRLS... THEN THE SOFT, CLINGING-VINES...AND FINALLY THE COMPANIONABLE "PAL"... OVER AND OVER AGAIN!



"YES, THE PATTERN **ALWAYS** REPEATED ITSELF! AND NOW I FELT I KNEW ENOUGH, WAS LOVELY ENOUGH TO BEGIN MY ACTUAL CONQUEST OF ROLFE'S HEART!"

HE'LL BE AT THE CHARITY BALL TONIGHT...AND SINCE HE'S JUST FINISHED WITH A "PAL", HE'S SURE TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE **ALOOF** TYPE!



"ALL THE GIRLS AT THE BALL MADE A HEAVY PLAY FOR ROLFE, BUT I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE BECAME INTRIGUED BY MY ALOOFNESS! THEN, AS I EXPECTED..."

EXCUSE ME, GIRLS... THERE'S SOMEONE THERE I WANT TO SEE!



HELLO, BEAUTIFUL! WHY DON'T WE DANCE WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHERE I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE?

DON'T BOTHER! I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY HERE... **ALONE!**



"EVEN THOUGH I LONGED TO DANCE WITH HIM, HAVE HIS ARMS AROUND ME, I REMAINED COLDLY WITHDRAWN! SO THE PURSUIT BEGAN... EXCEPT THAT ROLFE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS REALLY DOING THE PURSUING!"

WELL, IF YOU MUST LEAVE SO EARLY, AT LEAST LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME!

OH, ALL RIGHT... IF IT'LL MAKE YOU STOP ANNOYING ME! BUT I'M WARNING YOU I EXPECT TO BE TAKEN STRAIGHT HOME!

"ROLFE WAS INTRIGUED... AND BEGAN CALLING ME CONSTANTLY FOR DATES! WHEN I SENSED HE WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP OUT OF SHEER EXASPERATION..."

WHY, YES, ROLFE... I GUESS I CAN MAKE IT!

YOU CAN? THAT'S WONDERFUL! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU REALLY DIDN'T LIKE ME!

"IT WAS A RAPTUREOUSLY EXCITING EVENING! I LONGED FOR ROLFE TO TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS... BUT I KNEW THAT NOW HE WOULD BE INTRIGUED ONLY BY THE COQUETTISH, TEASING TYPE! SO..."

TRUDY, YOU'RE LOVELY! I---

AND YOU'RE SWEET... BUT I REALLY MUST GO INSIDE NOW!

GOOD NIGHT, DARLING... UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT!

HEY... YOU DON'T CALL THAT PECK A GOOD NIGHT KISS, DO YOU?

"BUT... DATE AFTER DATE... THOSE WERE THE ONLY KIND OF KISSES HE GOT... UNTIL..."

I'VE BEEN THINKING, TRUDY... PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO STOP SEEING EACH OTHER! YOU APPARENTLY HATE THE IDEA OF EVEN KISSING ME, SO IT'S EASY TO SEE YOU'LL NEVER LOVE ME!

OH, YOU'RE SO WRONG, DARLING... I WAS ONLY WAITING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT ME! IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT MY FEELINGS REALLY ARE, TRY KISSING ME NOW!

"ONE SEARING, RAPTUREOUS KISS... AND MY WORLD BECAME A HEAVENLY PARADISE! WITH HIS CARESSING LIPS AGAINST MINE, I KNEW AT LAST THE WONDER AND GLORY OF TRUE LOVE... AND SO DID ROLFE!"

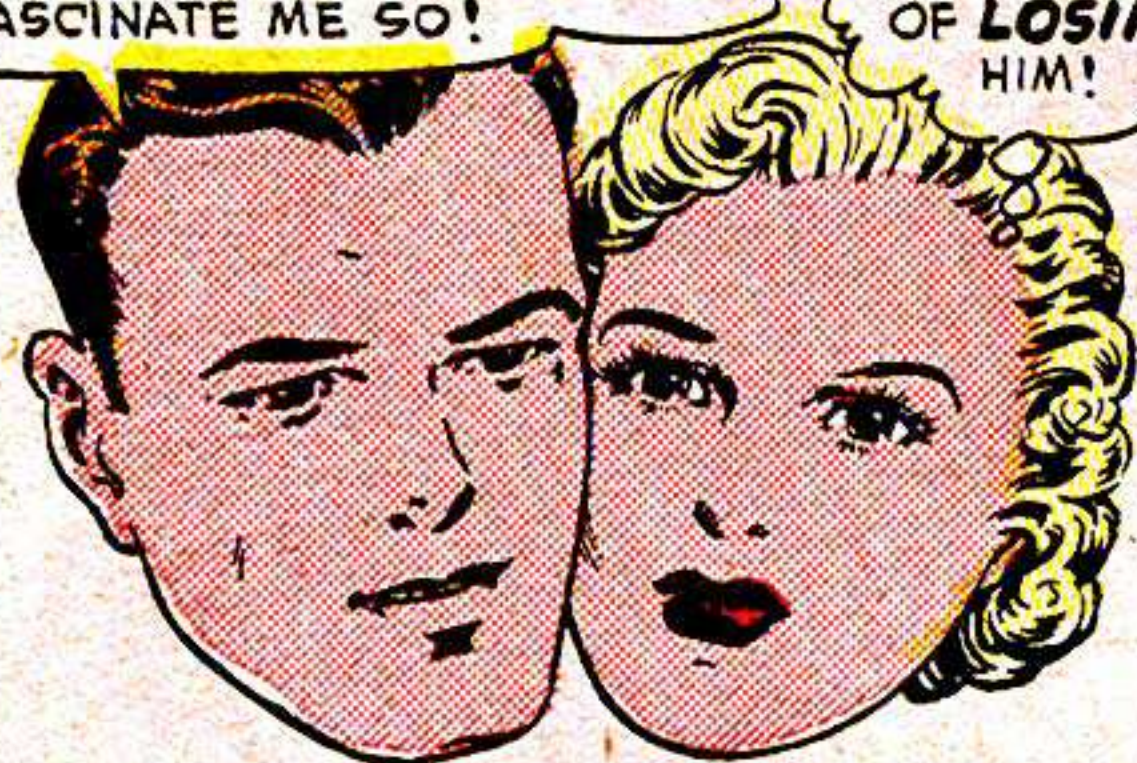
DARLING, I LOVE YOU SO!

OH, ROLFE! ROLFE!

"BUT NOW THAT I KNEW HE REALLY CARED, I WANTED TO HAVE HIM LOVE ME FOR MYSELF, NOT FOR THE PHONEY POSES I HAD ASSUMED! I WAS ABOUT TO REVEAL THE TRUTH WHEN..."

I NEVER KNEW A GIRL LIKE YOU --- YOU'RE SO **DIFFERENT!** YOU'RE SO MANY PERSONS IN ONE THAT I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOU --- MAYBE **THAT'S** WHY YOU FASCINATE ME SO!

THEN I---I'D BETTER KEEP UP ALL MY POSES--- OR RUN THE RISK OF **LOSING** HIM!



"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE A GLORIOUS ROUND OF RAPTUROUS DATES WITH ROLFE--- BUT ALWAYS THERE WAS A STORMY CLOUD ON THE HORIZON OF MY HAPPINESS! WHAT IF ROLFE FOUND OUT HOW I HAD SO CALCULATINGLY ENSNARED HIS HEART?"



"THEN, ONE DAY..."

HMM, ACCORDING TO THESE CHARTS OF ROLFE'S LIKES AND DISLIKES, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE **AGAIN!** SINCE THE NEXT PHASE IS TO BECOME A **PAL**, I'LL INVITE HIM OVER HERE TO TEACH ME HOW TO PLAY CHESS!

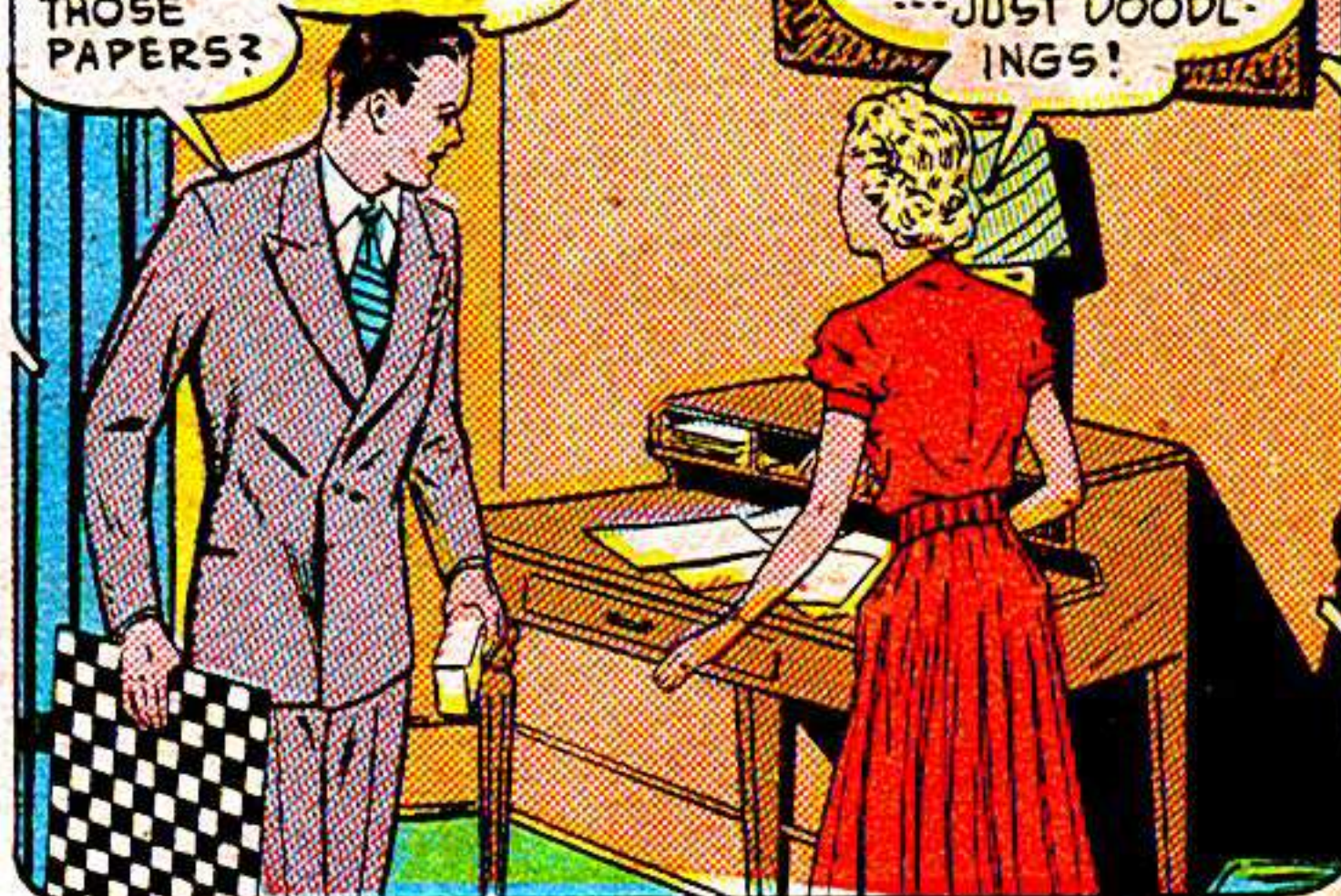


"AS I SUSPECTED, ROLFE WAS DELIGHTED BY THE IDEA--- BUT WHEN HE CAME OVER..."

YOU'RE CERTAINLY FULL OF **SURPRISES**, DARLING! LET'S SEE, I CAN PUT THE CHESS BOARD DOWN HERE--- HEY, WHAT'S MY NAME DOING ON ALL THOSE PAPERS?

OH, I---I FORGOT TO PUT THOSE CHARTS AWAY!

THEY---THEY'RE NOTHING, DARLING---JUST DOODLINGS!



"BUT BEFORE I COULD TAKE THE PAPERS FROM HIS HAND..."

WHY, THESE ARE DETAILS ON ALL MY HABITS WITH GIRLS! YOU---YOU WAGED A **DELIBERATE, COLD-BLOODED CAMPAIGN** TO MAKE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU! YOU'RE JUST A **SCHEMING FRAUD!**



WAIT, DARLING--- I---I ONLY DID ALL THAT BECAUSE I **LOVED** YOU---!

LOVE---A PHONEY LIKE YOU COULDN'T KNOW THE **MEANING** OF THE WORD! OTHER GIRLS MAY HAVE BECOME BORING AFTER A WHILE, BUT AT LEAST **THEY WERE REAL!** THERE'S NOT A GENUINE OUNCE OF EMOTION IN YOU--- I'LL NEVER BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY AGAIN! WE'RE **THROUGH!**



"MY WHOLE WORLD CAME CRASHING DOWN AROUND ME...FOR ROLFE WAS MY WORLD, MY LIFE, MY LOVE! AND IN MY BITTER GRIEF AND LONELINESS, I KNEW THE UTTER AGONY OF A BROKEN HEART!"

I---I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM---I **CAN'T!** I'VE GOT TO WIN HIM BACK!

"BUT ALL MY LETTERS WERE RETURNED UNOPENED, AND WHEN I TRIED CALLING HIM..."

I'M SORRY, MISS BROOKS, MR. CABOT REFUSES TO SPEAK TO YOU!

I---I CAN'T BLAME HIM! I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT A MAN WANTS A GIRL WHO'S **REAL**, NOT JUST A JUMBLE OF PHONEY POSES! IF HE COULD ONLY SEE HOW GENUINE I AM **NOW**... BUT IT'S NO USE!

"I HAD TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO HIM ALONE...AND ONE NIGHT MY CHANCE CAME! WHEN ROLFE RETURNED FROM A MOONLIGHT HORSE-BACK RIDE WITH ANOTHER GIRL, I WAS WAITING AT THE PADDOCKS IN BACK OF THE CABOT MANSION..."

GOOD NIGHT, HONEY... I'LL TAKE THE HORSES IN, AND MY CHAUFFEUR CAN DRIVE YOU HOME! SEE YOU TOMORROW...

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, YOU WON'T!

YOU! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

I **HAD** TO COME! I HAD TO TELL YOU HOW THINGS **REALLY** WERE, DARLING!

DON'T "DARLING" ME, YOU **PHONEY!** AND KEEP AWAY!

LOOK OUT! THE LAMP...

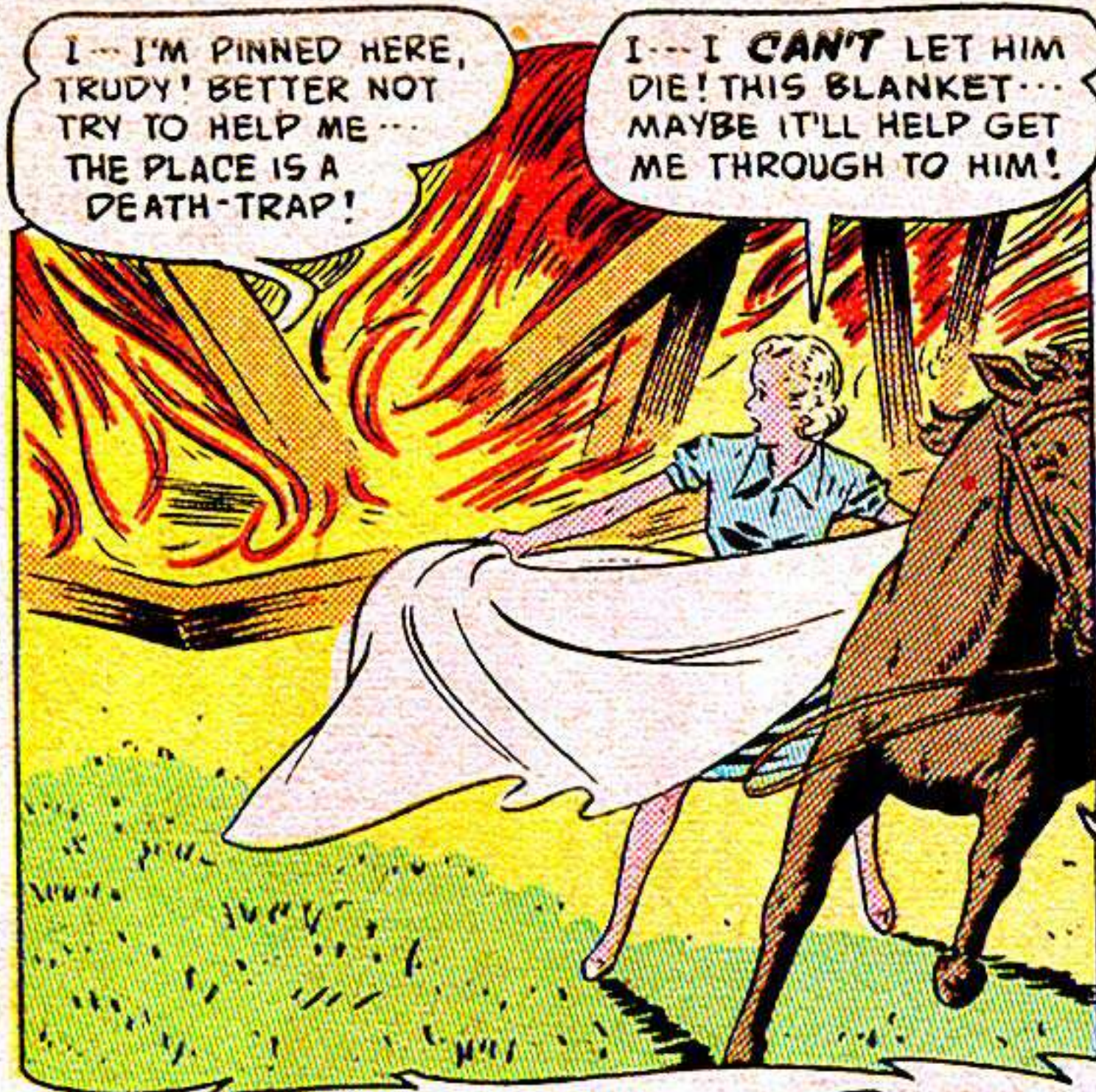
GREAT SCOTT...THOSE FLAMES WILL SPREAD LIKE **WILDFIRE** IN THAT HAY! I'VE GOT TO GET THE HORSES OUT!

NOT ALONE! I'M GOING TO HELP!

"I HELPED ROLFE BRING OUT HORSE AFTER HORSE... BUT BY THE TIME HE WENT BACK FOR THE LAST ONE, THE PLACE WAS A BLAZING INFERNO!"

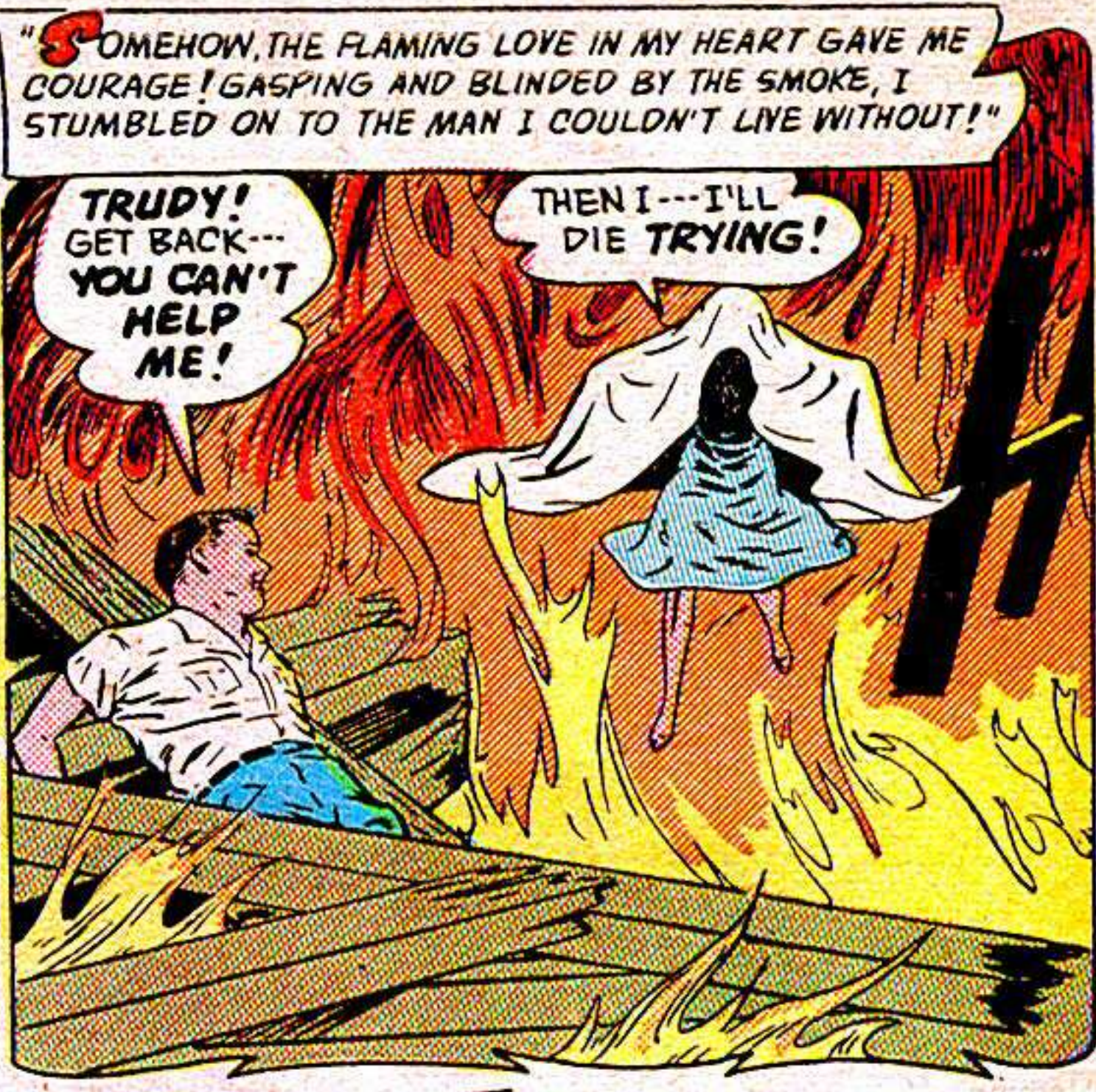
CRASH!
THE ROOF... IT'S COLLAPSING! AND ROLFE IS INSIDE!

WHAM!



I... I'M PINNED HERE, TRUDY! BETTER NOT TRY TO HELP ME... THE PLACE IS A DEATH-TRAP!

I... I CAN'T LET HIM DIE! THIS BLANKET... MAYBE IT'LL HELP GET ME THROUGH TO HIM!



TRUDY! GET BACK... YOU CAN'T HELP ME!

THEN I... I'LL DIE TRYING!



"HOW I MANAGED TO DO WHAT I DID I'LL NEVER KNOW! BUT ROLFE'S PERIL GAVE ME A STRENGTH I NEVER KNEW I POSSESSED!"

ANOTHER INCH... THERE... YOU DID IT! I... I'M FREE!

THE... THE SMOKE... CAN'T BREATHE...



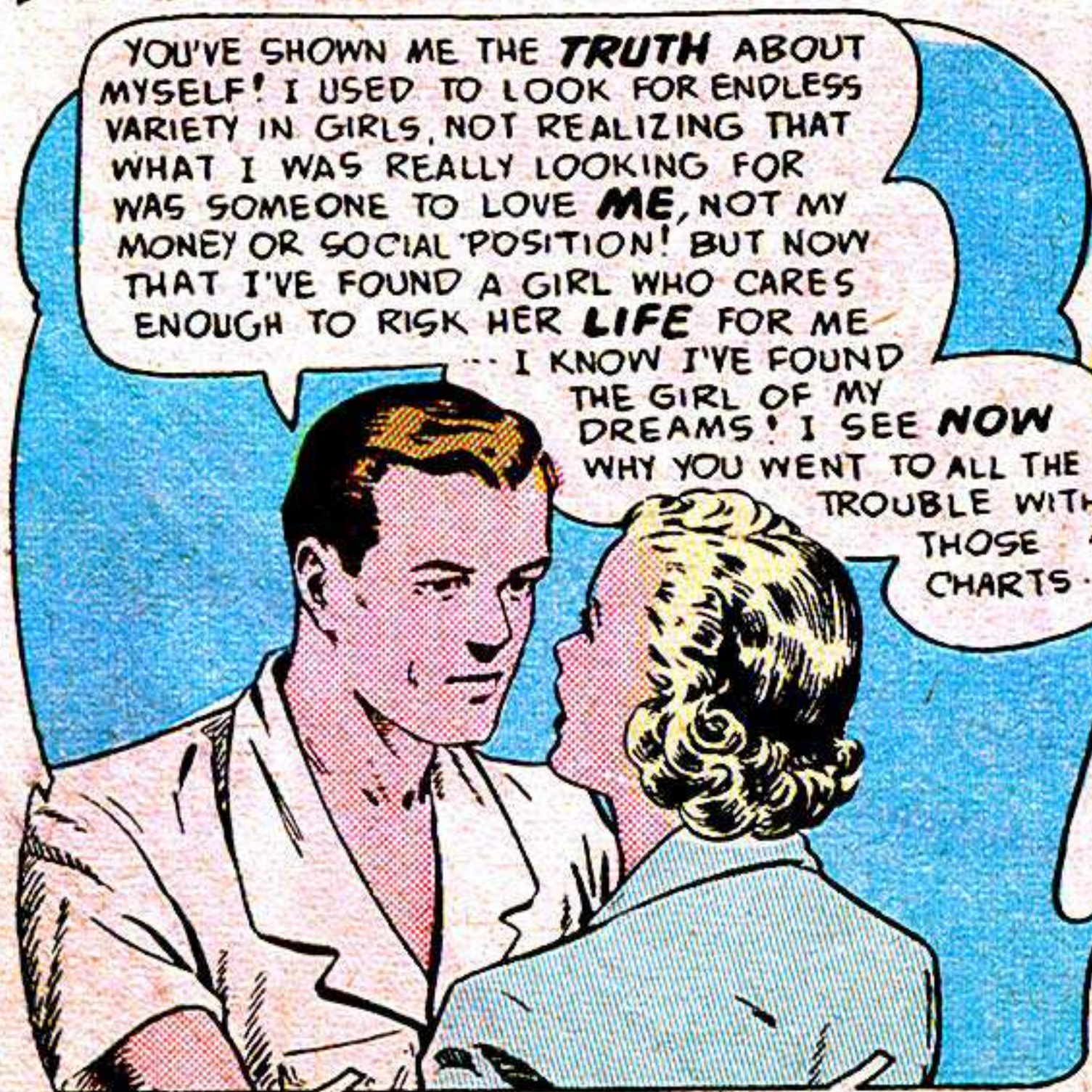
"I FELT MYSELF FAINTING! BUT JUST BEFORE THINGS WENT BLACK, ROLFE'S STRONG ARMS LIFTED ME, CRADLED ME..."



"I REVIVED... IN THE ARMS OF MY LOVE!"

ROLFE... ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?

YES, EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT... NOW THAT I KNOW YOU DO REALLY LOVE ME!



YOU'VE SHOWN ME THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF! I USED TO LOOK FOR ENDLESS VARIETY IN GIRLS, NOT REALIZING THAT WHAT I WAS REALLY LOOKING FOR WAS SOMEONE TO LOVE ME, NOT MY MONEY OR SOCIAL POSITION! BUT NOW THAT I'VE FOUND A GIRL WHO CARES ENOUGH TO RISK HER LIFE FOR ME...

... I KNOW I'VE FOUND THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS! I SEE NOW WHY YOU WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE WITH THOSE CHARTS...



BUT NOW YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO ASSUME ANOTHER POSE... AFTER YOU BECOME MY WIFE!

OHH... MY LOVE!

"YES, READER, TAKE IT FROM ME... TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE... AND IT SHALL FOLLOW AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THAT TRUE LOVE WILL COME YOUR WAY!"

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